

Inside *Dusty Rhodes' Startling Confession:*
"I TURN MY OPPONENTS INTO MANIACS!"
March 1979
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Wrestling

VICTORY
SPORTS
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**HOW DINO BRAVO
DROVE
SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
OUT OF THE WWWF**



**WHY I HATE
ANDRE THE GIANT**
By **ERNIE LADD**



**Race-Mulligan
Bloodbath:
WAS THIS
BLACKJACK
MULLIGAN'S
LAST CLEAN
MATCH?**



when I planned to **retire before**

this is the business that made it possible

Starting with borrowed money, in just eight years I gained financial security, sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that

business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

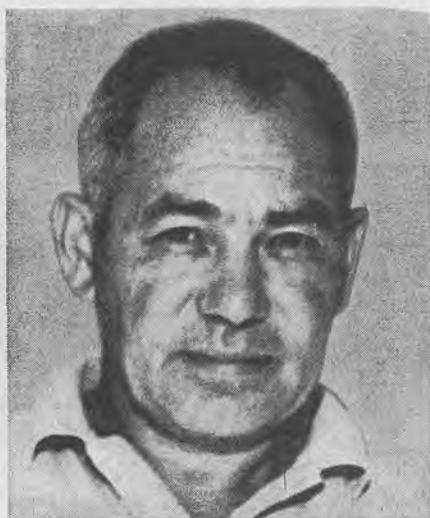
"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, only \$1985 starts a Duraclean dealership, and the company will finance the balance of the total \$5900 cost, without interest or finance charges.) I could work it as a one-man business to start, and operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead, no salaries to pay. Equipment would fit in my car trunk. (I bought the truck later, out of profits). Best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big

fifty

a true story
by John B. Haikey



as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

"What is this wonderful business? It's Duraclean. And what is Duraclean? It's an improved, space-age process for cleaning upholstered furniture, rugs and tacked down carpets. It not only cleans but it enlivens and sparkles up the colors. It does not wear down the fiber or drive dirt into the base of the rug as machine scrubbing does. Instead it *lifts out* the dirt by means of an absorbent dry foam.

"Furniture dealers and department stores refer their customers to the Duraclean Specialist. Insurance men say Duraclean can save them money on fire claims. Hotels, motels, specialty shops and big stores make annual contracts for keeping their carpets and furniture fresh and clean. One Duraclean Specialist signed a contract for over \$40,000 a year for just one hotel.

"Well, that's the business I was able to start with such a small investment. That's the business I built up over a period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

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THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS
THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

INSIDE

Wrestling

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If it feels like somebody else is making all the money, maybe it's time you looked at NRI home training for TV and audio technicians.

No matter how hard you try, there are some jobs that just seem to go nowhere. And others so monotonous, they drive you up the wall.

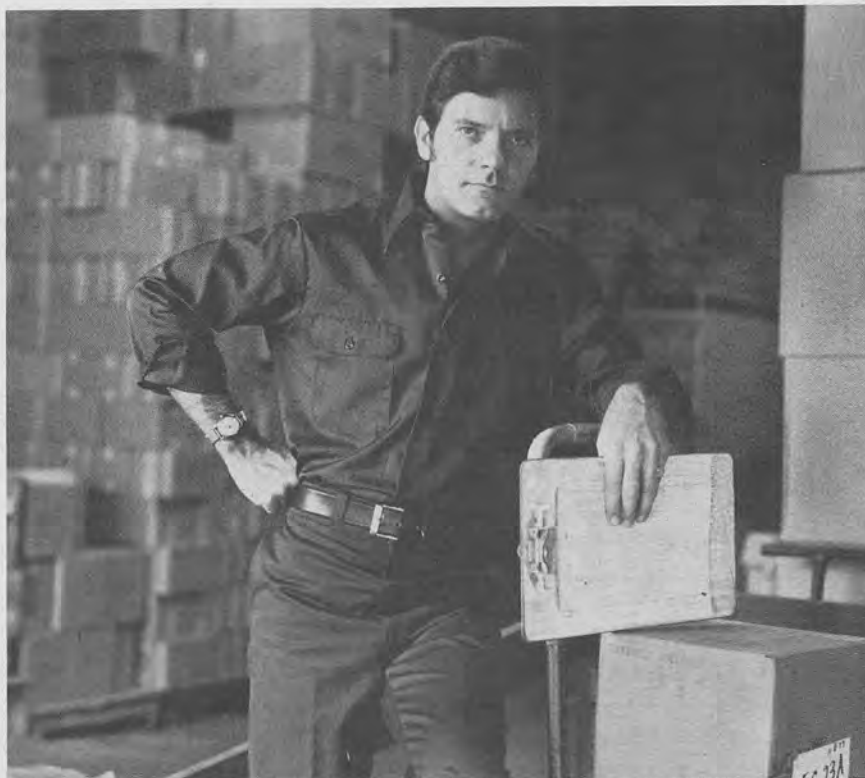
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*Summary of survey upon request.



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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

Silver and gold. Shining, glittering elements of beauty. Rare, precious minerals of unchanging brilliance. Silver and gold. Their hypnotizing lustre has blinded the minds of men since the dawn of civilization. And now Paul Jones has fallen victim to their spell.

Yes, Paul Jones, the man everyone respected, has become the object of hatred and abuse. And it's a hatred and abuse which is deserved, for he has knowingly brought it upon himself.

For silver and gold Paul Jones has walked away from everything he once stood for. For silver and gold, he almost ended the life of Rick Steamboat, his partner and his friend.

It happened at the end of a battle royal. Only Paul Jones and Rick Steamboat remained; all others had been eliminated. Rick Steamboat wanted to split the prize money. "No," said Paul Jones. "I want it all."

Before Steamboat could realize what was happening, he was battling a man he called "Brother." And this man whom he trusted kicked him in the groin. This man whom he trusted opened a wound on his head which was only a quarter-of-an-inch from killing him. And then, this man whom he trusted looked down on him, smiled cruelly, and spit on his body.

Paul Jones left the ring and disappeared into the night. Rick Steamboat was carried to a hospital where he awoke amid the terrible agony of his wounds and the even more excruciating pain of a broken heart.

"He was my friend," Rick Steamboat said, tears streaming freely. "He was my brother. I would have done anything for him. Anything."

It's a shame Paul Jones couldn't hear this. For he would have seen something even more valuable, more precious, than silver and gold.

It's called friendship.



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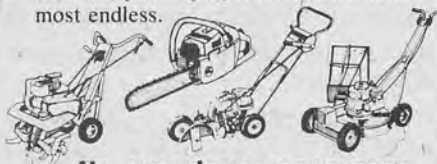
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ON THE ROAD

with
GARY MORGENSTEIN



On the suggestion of Bobby Heenan (above), reporter Morgenstein decided to interview an unbiased observer of the wrestling scene, Texas referee Danny McShane. Morgy and McShane discussed the role of rulebreakers in the sport.

WALKING EIGHT MILES to the nearest town gave me ample time to ponder Bobby Heenan's comments. If you'd forgotten, bad Bobby nearly ran me off the road simply to lecture me on media prejudice toward rulebreakers.

I'd had my share of Heenan's evil, but his sympathetic plea did tap a particle of interest within my weary body. Were we journalists guilty of prejudice against rulebreakers? Was there a conscious or subconscious tilt toward scientific wrestlers?

Since I hadn't bathed in five days and my mouth tasted like a rhino's sweat-sock it seemed like a poor time to conduct a national poll of wrestling writers. But I was approaching Houston, thanks to two lifts from kind drivers, one in a manure truck (can't have everything). I thought it'd be interesting to talk about this problem with a man who *has* to be impartial.

A referee. And the man I selected is a symbol of fairness. "Dangerous" Danny McShane. He knows about rulebreakers. He was once one.

Decency compelled me to shower, shave, and buy some new clothes. Oh, by the way, my car was smashed up and the insurance company laughed when I called them. Anyone selling a bicycle?

Quite dapper and smelling sweetly, I settled myself into a thick easy chair in McShane's living room, flicked on the tape recorder and thoroughly enjoyed myself.

"Bobby Heenan said that?" McShane chuckled. "Well, I might know a thing or two about rulebreakers," he said, smiling slyly, his thin lips pulling back in a growing grin. "As you know, I was something of a rulebreaker myself. I didn't win the nickname "Dangerous" from my driving." Again he chuckled.

"I think there is a prejudice against rulebreakers, but it's a natural one. In any civilized country, men who purposely try to maim other men will be regarded, as, well, something less than nice. We have certain rules and violating them makes people mad.

"Just because I'm a ref doesn't make me above prejudices, but I have to bury them. You know what

(Continued on page 48)

THE SPECTRUM
PHILADELPHIA

THE OLYMPIC
LOS ANGELES

MADISON
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NEW YORK CITY

THE AMPHITHEATRE
MEMPHIS
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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

SOMETIME LAST MONTH, I received a letter scrawled in the world's most gaudy script. In it I was called the usual slanders—coward being the only printable one—but with one addition. The writer offered me \$10,000 to wrestle Bruno Sammartino, Dino Bravo, and Rick Steamboat.

Interestingly enough, the writer who called me a coward didn't bother to sign his or her name. Well, my anonymous fool, I accept your challenge. Although my mother taught me never to take money from morons, in your case I'll make an exception.

In the same evening, in any arena in the world or a deserted back alley, I'll take on all three of those losers. It doesn't matter in what order I face them, they're all the same nobodies to me. It's important we do this all on one night because I don't want people calling me a bully by taking each clown apart on a separate night. We have to make this less than lopsided in my favor. Three in one night will restore at least a hint of competition to the massacre.

I have only one condition: no referees. Probably, this will force Bruno, Dino and Ricky (sounds like Moe, Larry, and Curly) to withdraw. After all, without a referee to help them, they'll be deprived of their most effective



Look at this illegal maneuver, will you! Rick Steamboat grabbed poor Baron Von Raschke before the bell rang and is now about to drive his elbow into the peace-loving German's throat. Some hero, this Steamboat!

weapon. That's tough. Either they meet me like men or not at all. It ought to be interesting to see them forced on their own for once in their lives.

It doesn't matter when the slaughters are held, although my pitiful opponents may want a few months to get in shape and take out insurance. Come to think of it, there will be a challenge in seeing if I can beat Bruno's face from ugly to handsome. Again, the date of their fateful night is up to the losers.

I don't use a manager. Though many have volunteered their services, and I'll listen to their suggestions, there will be

no one in my corner but me. I'll expect Sammartino to drag along his lackey, Arnold Skoaland. I go it alone; that's how I want it. Whatever crutch they need is acceptable to me.

The particulars of this event will have to be worked out by my anonymous correspondent. I don't talk to jerks like Sammartino, Bravo, or Steamboat. Come to me with everything set up and I'll gladly accept. I'm too busy to waste my time as a matchmaker. Are you getting someone to read this and explain it to you, bozo writer?

All three matches will be any

(Continued on page 52)

ONLY DAN LURIE'S EXCLUSIVE "POSITRAIN" SYSTEM TURNS OUT CHAMPIONS LIKE THESE!



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'TOP SECRET'

Behind the Dressing Room Door

**by Randy
Gordon**

THERE IS A conspiracy to drive me out of wrestling! I'm sure of it. Whoever is behind this conspiracy had better be warned: I will find out who you are. When I do, you'll beg for mercy. That I promise!

I had spent one night in Detroit, where I got to watch The Sheik destroy some poor preliminary kid named Roy "The Rabbi" Levin, pound the referee when he tried to intervene, burn a commission member, and scare some 13-year-old female fan so badly that she was still trembling a half-hour later.

After the match, I disgustedly got into my rented car, which already had my packed suitcase in it. I was set to leave for the airport. Then I noticed Austin Idol, Don Kent and a few more useless rulebreakers standing around and laughing while pointing at me. I smiled at them, threw them the "Hawaiian Good Luck Sign," and put the keys in the ignition. Nothing! The car wouldn't start. The rulebreakers laughed even harder. They had tampered with the car's wiring. Damn!

I'd like to know who informed them which car I was driving. I'll find out!

By the time I called the company from which I rented the car and by the time they sent over a guy to drive me to the airport, it was too late. I ran through the airport like O.J., just in time to see the lights of the plane disappearing into the clouds over Detroit.

It was just past midnight, and the next flight to New York didn't leave for another four-and-one-half hours. I sat in the airport's snack shop, drinking what they claimed was coffee, but what
(Continued on page 56)

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THE

INSIDER

By STEVEN FARHOOD

SCOOP OF THE MONTH

I can finally print what I've known for months! Dusty Rhodes, "The American Dream," is going to run for President! I know it may sound unbelievable. But Dusty has been contemplating the move for several months. He has reportedly traveled across the country and talked to political leaders, including several governors and congressmen. Political experts from Mobile to Minnesota agree that a Dusty Rhodes for President campaign has a chance for success.



The incredible "American Dream," Dusty Rhodes, is all smiles as he announces his intentions to run for president in the next election in 1980. Do it Dusty!

Rhodes plans to start his own political party, "The American Dream Party." He already has thousands of volunteers lined up in every state, preparing literature, campaign buttons, flyers and raising money. But let the candidate himself explain the unbelievable decision.

"As everyone knows, I have wrestled across the country. I've been as active as any wrestler in history. Wherever I go the fans seem to love me. So I spoke with a few of the people in high places, and they all think that with the people's support, I have a chance. Only in America would this happen. I thank the Lord that the people have the final word," Dusty said.

Although campaign strategy is still being mapped out, Dusty has already announced some of his aides. Verne Gagne and Arnold Skoaland would both have posts in the Rhodes administration.

If Dusty indeed is elected president, wrestling would lose a brilliant and dedicated warrior. But the void in the wrestling world would be a small loss considering the country's gain. I hope you win all 50 states, "Dream."

RUMOR VS. FACT

RUMOR: Ric Flair was born with no nose! This fantastic rumor has been traveling around the Mid-Atlantic circuit recently. Supposedly, Flair was a normal child except for the rather grotesque hole in the middle of his face. There was nothing but skin between his eyes and his mouth. His parents were shocked and the doctors were puzzled. Supposedly, this is what helped create his evil personality. Though it was not the first such case in medical

history, a complicated operation involving skin grafting was necessary to form a nose. Flair went through the operation successfully and no one can tell that he was once without a nose!

FACT: When I heard this story from a usually reliable source, I went straight to work. Realizing that this could have been my biggest story yet, I had to get some definite evidence.

Unfortunately, a few days of hard research left me frustrated and exhausted. I flew to Flair's hometown, drove straight to the hospital of his birth and checked



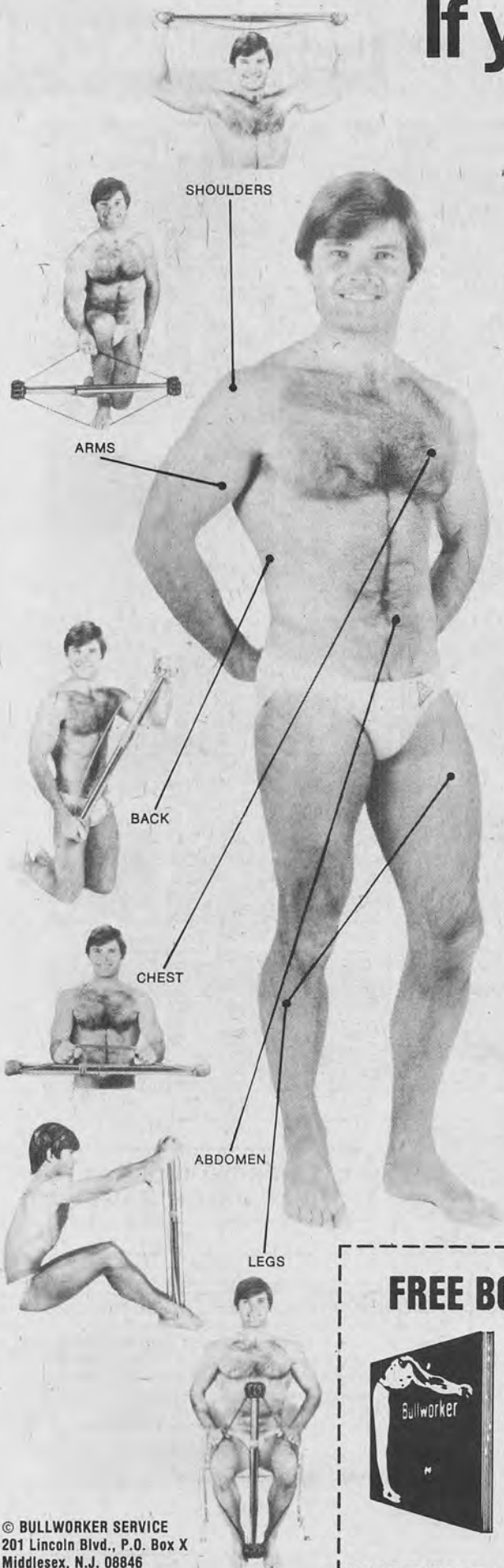
The rumors persist that Ric Flair, noted rulebreaker and self-proclaimed wrestling beauty, was born with no nose! We proved the rumor to be false.

his birth certificate. Sure enough the certificate testified that Flair was born as a normal child, nose and all.

"I'm sure some jealous weasel that isn't half the beauty I am started that rumor," a furious Flair said. "My beautiful

(Continued on page 62)

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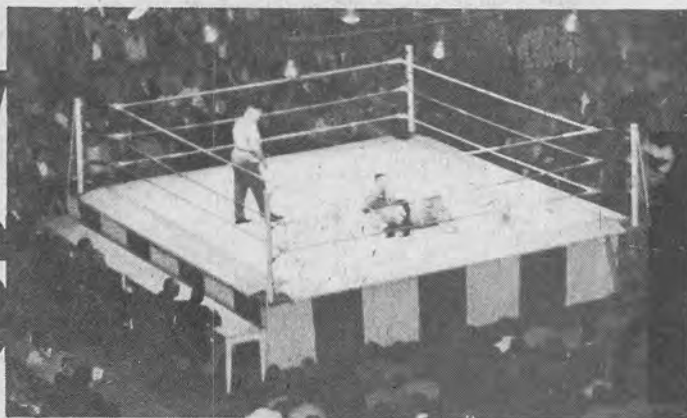
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SEND LETTERS TO:

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ASTOUNDED!

After reading "One on One" (January 1979), I was astounded by some of the remarks of Harley Race. I've seen him wrestle and he's all rulebreaker, no denying it. How dare he consider himself better than Ric Flair! Flair has good looks and he also has immense talents. Race has nothing.

Race doesn't know what wrestling is all about. Sure Flair resorts to many illegal tactics, but Race is no better. He does the same thing. But Flair does it with character and ability. That's why King Richard is number one.

NANNETTE GEHLING.
Branchville, S.C.

RATINGS ARE GOOD

I would like to congratulate you on your official ratings. They are great. Every month I look forward to reading them.

It might be easy to be prejudiced for fan favorites like Rhodes and Sammartino and then push them up in the ratings. But your magazine is never guilty of prejudice, either to scientific wrestlers or to rulebreakers like Ernie Ladd. Thanks for publishing them.

GINA CLAIR
Charlotte, N.C.

KOLOFF SPEAKS THE TRUTH?

I think Ivan Koloff might have a claim in what he said in "Are



Ivan Koloff (above), who claims that the referees are protecting Bob Backlund, has Don Muraco in a headlock. The High Samoan Chief Peter Maivia (below) is a double-crosser, according to Keith Ferguson of New York.



The Referees Protecting Bob Backlund?" (January 1979). I have seen Backlund wrestle Koloff twice, once on television and once live in an arena. Each time Koloff had Backlund bleeding and each time the referee stopped the match. However, in my opinion, Backlund wasn't bleeding that

badly in either case.

But if the refs are protecting Backlund, I don't think he really knows it. I think the WWF should look into this situation. It's a very serious matter. They could be hurting Bob, not helping him.

BILL WELLEK
Latrobe, Pa.

DOUBLE-CROSSER

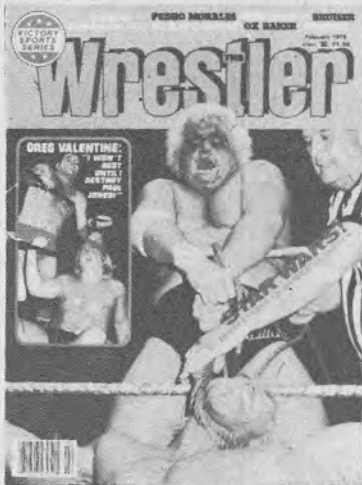
Peter Maivia has disappointed many of his fans. Peter was one of my favorite wrestlers until recently when he double-crossed Bob Backlund, Arnold Skoaland and Chief Jay Strongbow. I hope these wrestlers and their friends get even for this betrayal.

A double-crosser is never a good example for young fans. Don't worry, Maivia, you'll get yours and it will happen very soon.

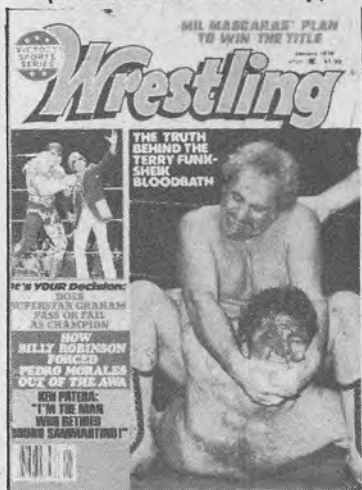
KEITH FERGUSON
New York, N.Y.

(Continued on page 58)

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NAMES MAKI

PAUL JONES and RICK STEAMBOAT have split after a vicious and unprovoked attack by Jones on his young partner. The trouble started when the two good friends participated in a two-ring battle royal. Steamboat won in ring #1 while Jones toppled the best in ring #2. Rules state that the winners of each ring must meet each other in combat—or split the victory money if they do not want to wrestle each other.

Steamboat suggested splitting the money but Jones surprisingly said, "No. Let's wrestle for it."



PAUL JONES

The match was no longer than five minutes old (with both participants wrestling strictly scientifically) when Jones took a cheap low shot at Steamboat, used a piledriver and knocked him senseless. Horrified fans watched in shock as Jones didn't stop there. He kept pummeling Ricky until the youngster was a bloody mess!

In an exclusive interview just hours after the shocking incident, Jones blasted Steamboat. "That



RICK STEAMBOAT

damn punk is getting all the publicity, all the attention. I do all the work in our tag team matches and he gets the credit.

"Paul Jones has always been number one, mister! I don't like what's happening here. Steamboat is an overrated punk who kisses the butts of the officials and the fans. I'm through with him. He deserved what I gave him. I'm number one again!"

A terrible event that the fans will never forget has gotten worse. The two men who the fans loved so dearly are now determined to destroy each other.

Look for big things from a newcomer in Texas by the name of T-JOHN TIBBEDEUX. He weighs 600 pounds and swears to demolish the army of GARY HART, which consists of MARK LEWIN, GINO HERNANDEZ, and THE WHITE KNIGHT . . . GREG VALENTINE says he's having his own WWF championship belt made and it will be worth \$50,000. "Much more than that hunk of junk BOB

BACKLUND wears—or used to wear. I am the champion so I deserve the very best—the very best!"

THE VALIANT BROTHERS say, "LARRY ZBYSZKO and TONY GAREA are has-beens. Washed up. Send in your funds so they can afford a rest home!" . . .



THE VALIANT BROTHERS



MASKED SUPERSTAR

MASKED SUPERSTAR is the Georgia champion after a controversial upset over MR. WRESTLING II. Films of the title clash show foul doings, but the decision stands . . . Speaking of superstars, SUPERSTAR GRAHAM has taken off to Missouri with hopes of unseating

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

DICK THE BRUISER from the Missouri state throne.

Rumors persist that NWA champion **HARLEY RACE** is afraid to grant **TED DiBIASE** another shot at the championship. "He should be scared!" exclaimed Ted. "I have whipped him in tag team bouts and in non-title affairs." . . . **SONNY KING** says that the man he manages, **MR. UGANDA**, is definitely not **BOB ROOP**. Roop is furious that every time a new masked wrestler shows up in Florida, everyone thinks it is him!

PEDRO MORALES is undefeated in 72 consecutive matches in California . . . AWA champion **NICK BOCKWINKLE** just completed a successful tour of Japan and Hawaii . . . **STAN "The Man" STASIAK** claims that the heartpunch of **OX BAKER** doesn't have one-quarter the power of his. "I could knock an elephant out with mine. Baker would be lucky to make a mouse gasp for breath with that pansy punch of his," Stan insists.

TERRY FUNK and brother **DORY FUNK JR.** are the Georgia tag team champions after winning a tiring tournament to determine new champions (**OLE ANDERSON** and **STAN HANSEN** were stripped of the title) . . . **JIMMY SNUKA** claims he is the only man who is not affected by the clawhold of **BARON VON RASCHKE**. "Let's just say I have an extra-hard head," claims Jimmy . . . **ANDRE THE GIANT** recently had one of his toughest battles against huge **CRUSHER BLACKWELL**.

United States heavyweight champion **RIC FLAIR** announced that he believes **BLACKJACK MULLIGAN** will become a



TED DIBIASE

member of the rulebreaking class again . . . **TIM "MR. WRESTLING" WOODS** is once again a top contender for Flair's title . . . **PETER MAIVIA** may form a tag team with either **VICTOR RIVERA** or **SPIROS ARION** . . .



CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO

BOBO BRAZIL is active in St. Louis, Missouri.

KEVIN and **DAVID VON ERICH** believe they know the identity of **THE WHITE KNIGHT**—but they don't agree with one another. Kevin thinks the masked man is a newcomer and David feels the man is a seasoned



DAVID VON ERICH

veteran . . . **CAPTAIN LOUIS ALBANO** refuses to talk about **THE LUMBERJACKS** anymore. They lost the WWF tag team title under his management . . . The "Big Cat" **ERNIE LADD** gave his manager **THE GRAND WIZARD** a \$5,000 bonus check for getting him a shot at the WWF championship.

That's all for now. See you next month. □

ONE ON

(At one time, they comprised two-thirds of wrestling's most powerful three-man tag team. Then the rumors began. Someone was selling out. Someone was spying. Such talk was swiftly discounted, reduced to the level of rulebreaker gossip. But one night High Chief Peter Maivia fulfilled the evil rumors and attacked his partner, Bob Backlund, and manager Arnold Skoaland. Now two of the three ex-partners have an opportunity to confront each other via picture-phone. Andre the Giant in Tampa, Florida, Maivia from a hotel room somewhere on the east coast.)



Picturephone photos courtesy of Bell Telephone.

Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else

PETER MAIVIA:

Hello there, gruesome
Giant.

ANDRE THE GIANT:

If it isn't the traitor.

PM: Traitor? I did what I had to
out of self-preservation,
you ugly dinosaur.

A: Have you no shame?

PM: None. I did what was right.

A: No matter how you hurt
your friends?

NONE



A: Blassie has poisoned your mind so you do not recognize truth any longer.

PM: The truth is that I'm a star now. I could never be a star working with Backlund or you. Now my fullest potential will be realized.

A: Can we talk about something other than your career?

PM: Like yours?

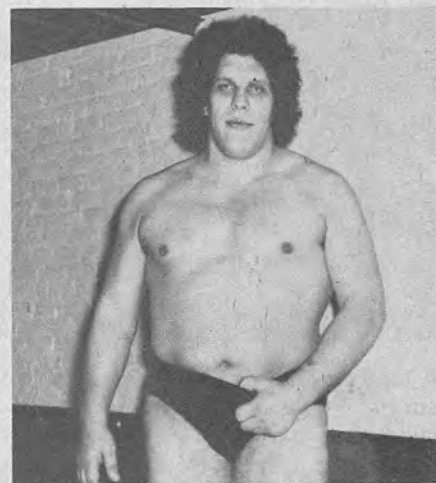
A: I am proud of what I have accomplished.

PM: What's that?

A: My record speaks for itself.

PM: Are you champion?

A: Well, no, but that is . . .



PM: Friends? You and Mascaras were selling me down the river when we were together. You guys were getting all the glory, all the press, all the money. And then I teamed with Howdy Doody. He was the big-shot. They treated me like dirt. Not until Fred Blassie came along did I

realize how poorly I was treated.

A: Mil and I welcomed you as an equal. There was never anything but equality in money and in . . .

PM: You liar. Many times I was lying in the ring and you and the masked fool let me get whipped. That's equal?

PM: I'll be champ in a little while. All I got to do is whip Backlund and I'm in. You'll never be champ. You don't have the toughness to be champ like I do. I saw that when I was with you. I know all your weaknesses, though there are so many that I have to write them

(Continued on page 46)

NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

SEATTLE, WASH.

By Jeff Somsak



KILLER BROOKS

vs.

LORD JONATHAN BOYD



A leather collar around their necks connected to an eight-foot chain separated Bad News Killer Brooks and Lord Jonathan Boyd in a bloody and brutal dog fight match. Brooks gained the advantage when Boyd became entangled in the ropes. Killer began choking Boyd with the chain, and was awarded the match when Boyd was choked into unconsciousness.

OTHER BOUTS: Buddy Rose and Ed Wiskowski defeated Dutch Savage and Red Bastien... Don Leo Jonathan won by disqualification over Dr. Hiro Ota.

CHICAGO, ILL.

By Rick Kotel



NICK BOCKWINKLE

vs.

DICK THE BRUISER



The AWA's Super Bowl IV pitted champion Nick Bockwinkel against Dick the Bruiser. With two tough wrestlers, it was inevitable that the match would turn brutally berserk. When it was all over, Bockwinkel was unconscious and Bruiser was draped over a stool—result: a draw.

OTHER BOUTS: At first it appeared Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne had recaptured their AWA tag team titles from Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens. However, on a technicality, the belts were returned to Patterson and Stevens... King Kong Brodie halted Pat O'Conner.

ALBANY, N.Y.

By Kathy Bruso



PETER MAIVIA

vs.

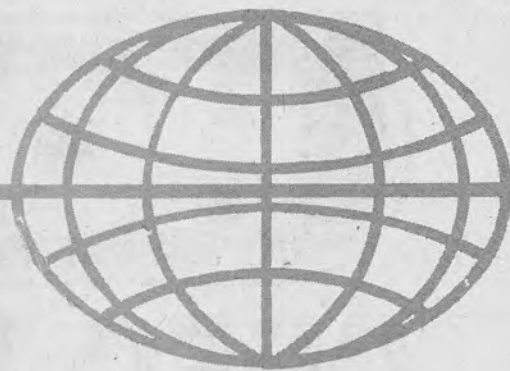
CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW



It was a match many wrestling fans thought would never happen. But, sadly, it did. Even before the bell rang, Peter Maivia attacked Jay Strongbow from behind, setting the treacherous pattern. Before long, Maivia's disgusting tactics drove Strongbow berserk and both men became embroiled in rulebreaking. The match ended in a double disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Dino Bravo drew with Spiros Arion... S.D. Jones whipped Jose Estrada... Crazy Luke Graham stopped Moose Monroe... Johnny Rodz took Steve King.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



RALEIGH, N.C.

By Curt Gandy



**HARLEY RACE
vs.
BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**

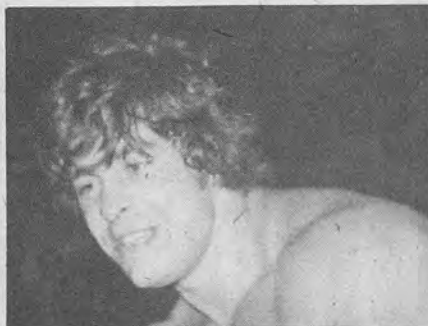


Blackjack Mulligan permitted his anger to control his wrestling. As a result, he lost the opportunity to crush NWA champion Harley Race. Enraged by Race's rulebreaker tactics, Mulligan went berserk and hurled Harley over the top rope.

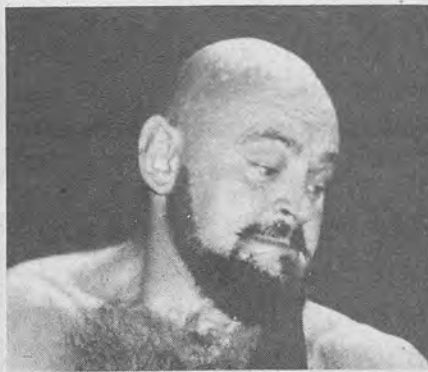
OTHER BOUTS: Jimmy Snuka pounded Baron Von Raschke . . . Skip Young and Johnny Weaver won by disqualification over Brute Bernard and Gene Anderson.

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

By John Garguoli



**DINO BRAVO
vs.
IVAN KOLOFF**



Dino Bravo's speed and Ivan Koloff's strength cemented this match into a straining stand—off for nearly 30 minutes. A Bravo airplane spin knocks the referee out of the ring. Bravo tried to help him in and Koloff took advantage of this to pound Dino against the ropes. Close friend Ivan Putski rushed to Bravo's aid, which caused Dino to be disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: Ivan Putski stopped Superstar Billy Graham . . . Tony Garea and Victor Rivera drew . . . Crusher Blackwell splashed his way to a win over Larry Zbyszko . . . Spiros Arion triumphed over S.D. Jones.

COLUMBUS, GA.

By Clark Duncan



**MR. WRESTLING II
vs.
MASKED SUPERSTAR**



Mr. Wrestling II defended his newly acquired Georgia heavyweight title against the fiendish Masked Superstar. Several times the Masked Superstar tried to capture II in the devilish cobra hold. Each time II twisted free. The match ended in a one-hour time limit draw.

OTHER BOUTS: Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods upset Stan Hansen . . . Bugsy McGraw won by disqualification over Angelo Mosca. □

HOTSEAT

GREG VALENTINE: “IT WOULD BE FUN TEARING OPEN BACKLUND’S FACE!”

MERE MENTION of his name evokes an angry reaction. His rampages, his animalistic manner, his utter disregard for human life is already legendary. Often, a thin, maniacal smile appears on his cruel lips as a battered wrestling foe moans. Presently, he holds the NWA tag team title with fellow rulebreaker Baron Von Raschke. His name is Greg Valentine.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY
GARY MORGENSTEIN

- Q:** Welcome, Greg.
- A:** Yeah, yeah, don't give me any phony greetings. You press people don't like me.
- Q:** That'd be a good place to start. You feel you're receiving unfair coverage?
- A:** Sure I am. Always an article about Valentine the killer. Never anything good about me, about my many successes.
- Q:** Like the tag team title?
- A:** Yeah, why not write about that? Me and the Baron are

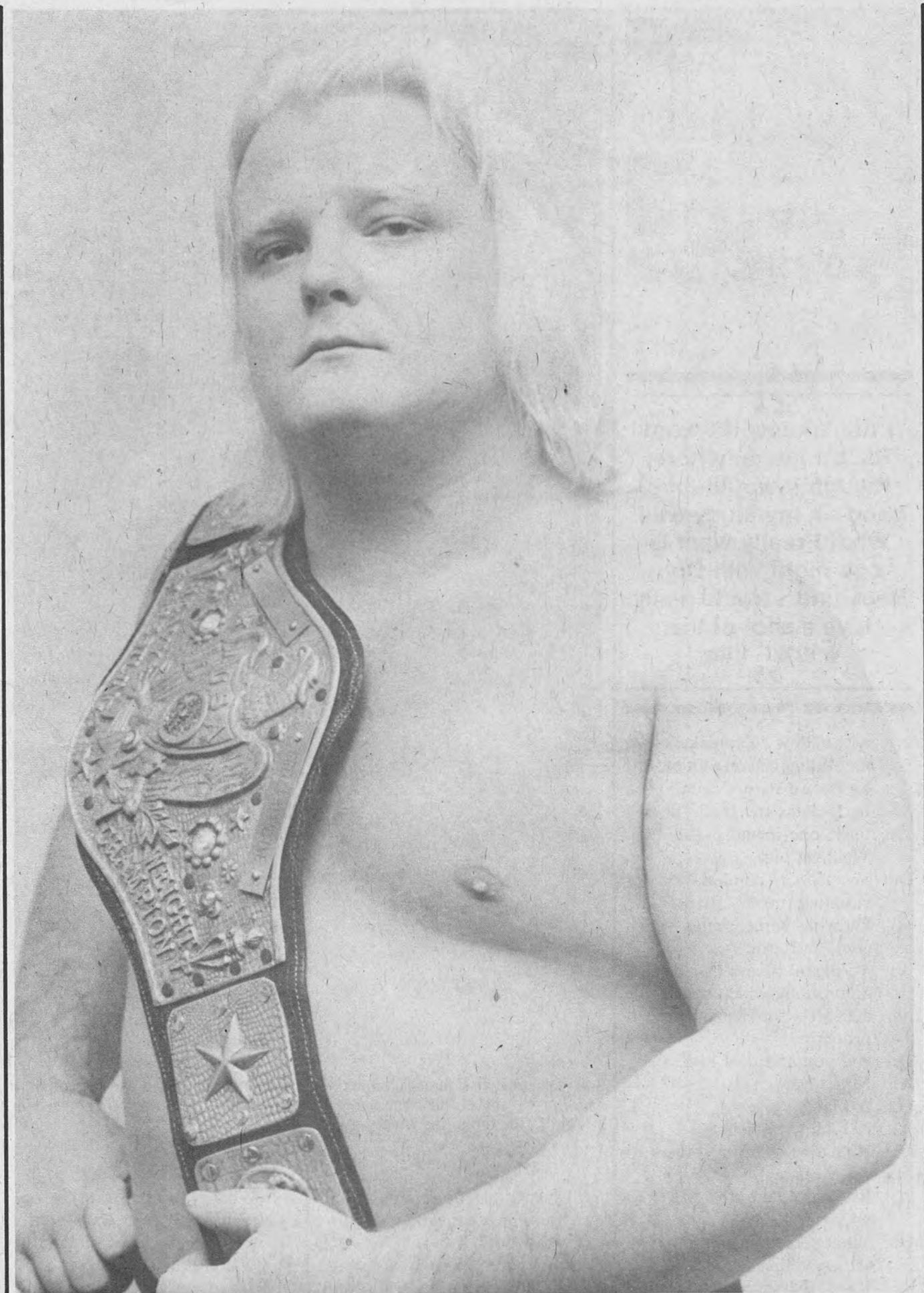
the meanest tag team around. But you press people only talk about zit-faces like Brunzell and Gagne, Keirn and Graham, and other assorted yokels.

“
Me and the Baron are the meanest tag team around. But you press people only talk about zit-faces like Brunzell and Gagne, Keirn and Graham, and other assorted yokels.
”

- Q:** You can't contend you've never done illegal things in the ring.
- A:** I didn't say that.
- Q:** You just said that . . .
- A:** What I said, you moron, was that *my* style of wrestling is knocked. Ric Flair and I, and

now Baron, have contributed a new brand of success. It hasn't been recognized.

- Q:** What about you and Flair? Is there tension between the two of you?
- A:** No, that's just another press creation.
- Q:** He has brought in John Studd as his new bounty hunter.
- A:** Yeah, I was kind of surprised that Ric didn't ask me. I guess he thought I was too busy defending my tag team title. It really doesn't matter. All that counts is for Blackjack Mulligan to get his face wasted.
- Q:** There have been reports that the reason for your hatred and Flair's hatred of Mulligan, is Blackjack's knowledge of a foul secret which could ruin your careers.
- A:** He knows secrets.
- Q:** So it is true?
- A:** Partially. That's not why we're after him. Look, man, when you're outnumbered like me and Ric are, you band together and exchange secrets





“
I don't know if I want
Race's title anymore,
though it would look
good on my study wall.
What I really want is
one night with Bob
Backlund. I would really
love a shot at the
WWWF title.
”

with fellow rulebreakers. We let Mulligan in on a lot of stuff 'cause we trusted him. Then he violates the trust. There's only one penalty for that. We'll get him.

Q: So it's a combination of violating your trust and knowing some things which could hurt you?

A: Mulligan doesn't know a damn thing which could hurt me. He's too lame to use it properly.

Q: Are you afraid of him?

A: No!

Q: Is Flair?

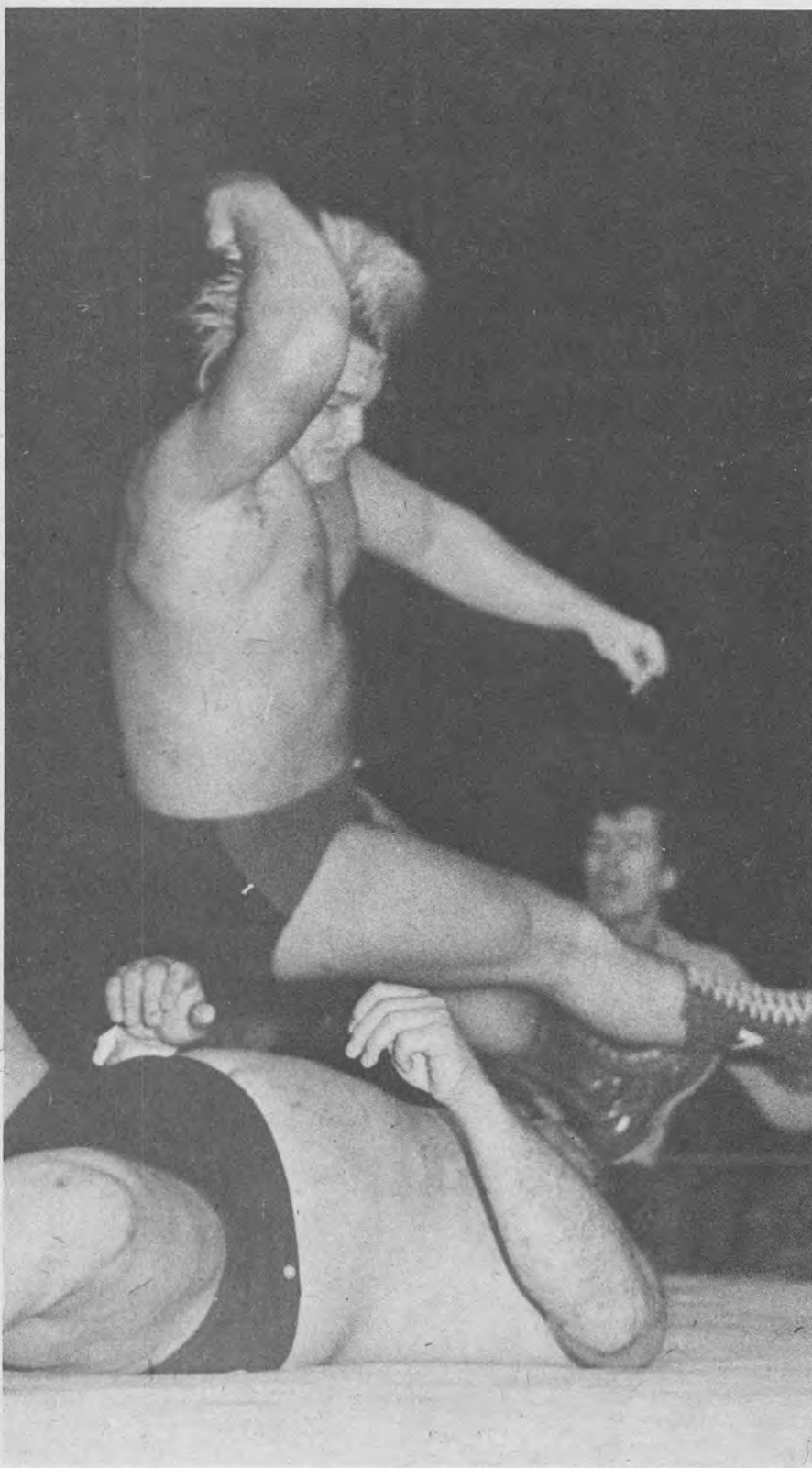
A: Ask him yourself.

Q: He's always hiring others to get Mulligan.

A: Ric has a mouth. Ask him yourself.

Q: What personal goals have you set for yourself?

A: Race, the chicken-spine, has

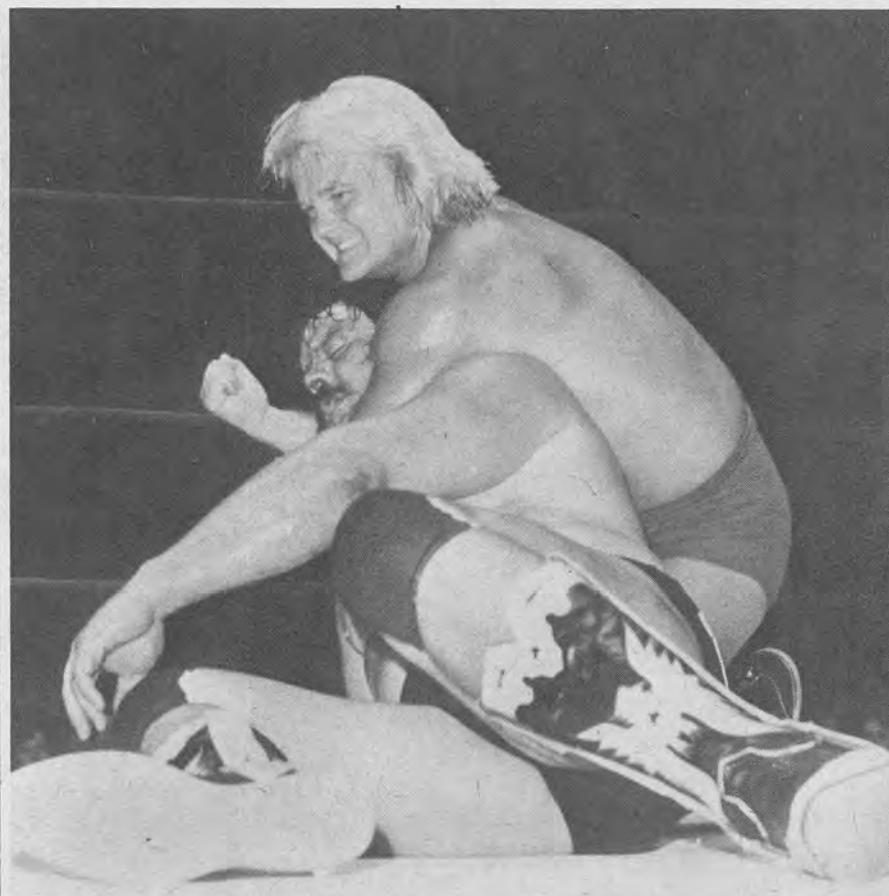


Greg Valentine flies through the air while delivering his famed and feared flying elbowsmash (above). The maneuver is devastating and Greg hopes it will propel him straight to the top of the WWWF ratings.

evaded me long enough. But I think he's beneath me. I don't know if I want his title anymore, though it would look good on my study wall.

What I really want is one night with Bob Backlund. I would really love a shot at the WWWF belt.

Q: Have you started negotiating?



A: With some of the managers up there. Albano, Blassie, the Grand Wizard. I'll check them out and see which one could do the most for me. But I don't want money to get in the way of a Backlund title match. I'd do it for free.

Q: You never said that about Race?

A: What?

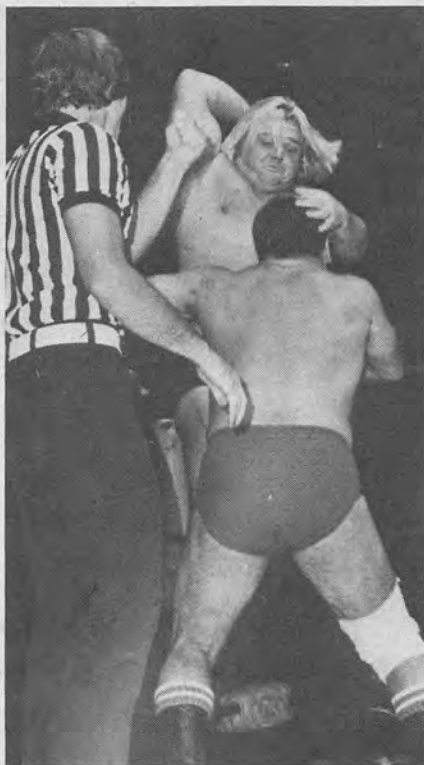
Q: That you'd wrestle him for free.

A: I'd only push aside money when there's a real challenge. Race doesn't pose a challenge. He gives up too easy. Backlund is strong enough and stupid enough, from what I hear, to give me a fine tussle. It would be fun tearing open Backlund's face and breaking a limb. I'd enjoy that.

Q: Anyone else in the WWWF area you'd like to wrestle?

A: Uh, most of them are beneath me. Oh, Rhodes, the American Fat Boy. He might last a while. But he's so fat. Yeah, that'd be a challenge, finding

Greg Valentine has arch rival and former friend Blackjack Mulligan helpless (above). Paul Jones is about to catch a vicious elbowsmash courtesy of Valentine (below). Greg wants Bob Backlund's blood as well as his title.



“

Most rulebreakers will stop at a certain point. Not me. Not Ric either. He's the only one. Sometimes it feels like it's me and Ric against the world.

”

the bone beneath the fat. The other guys, you know, like Sammartino, Bravo, they're nothing. They bore me.

Q: You don't want to wrestle Sammartino?

A: No. That living legend stuff makes me sick. I don't care what anyone has done yesterday. It's what you do now. From what I've heard, Sammartino is finished. He should go to a rest home.

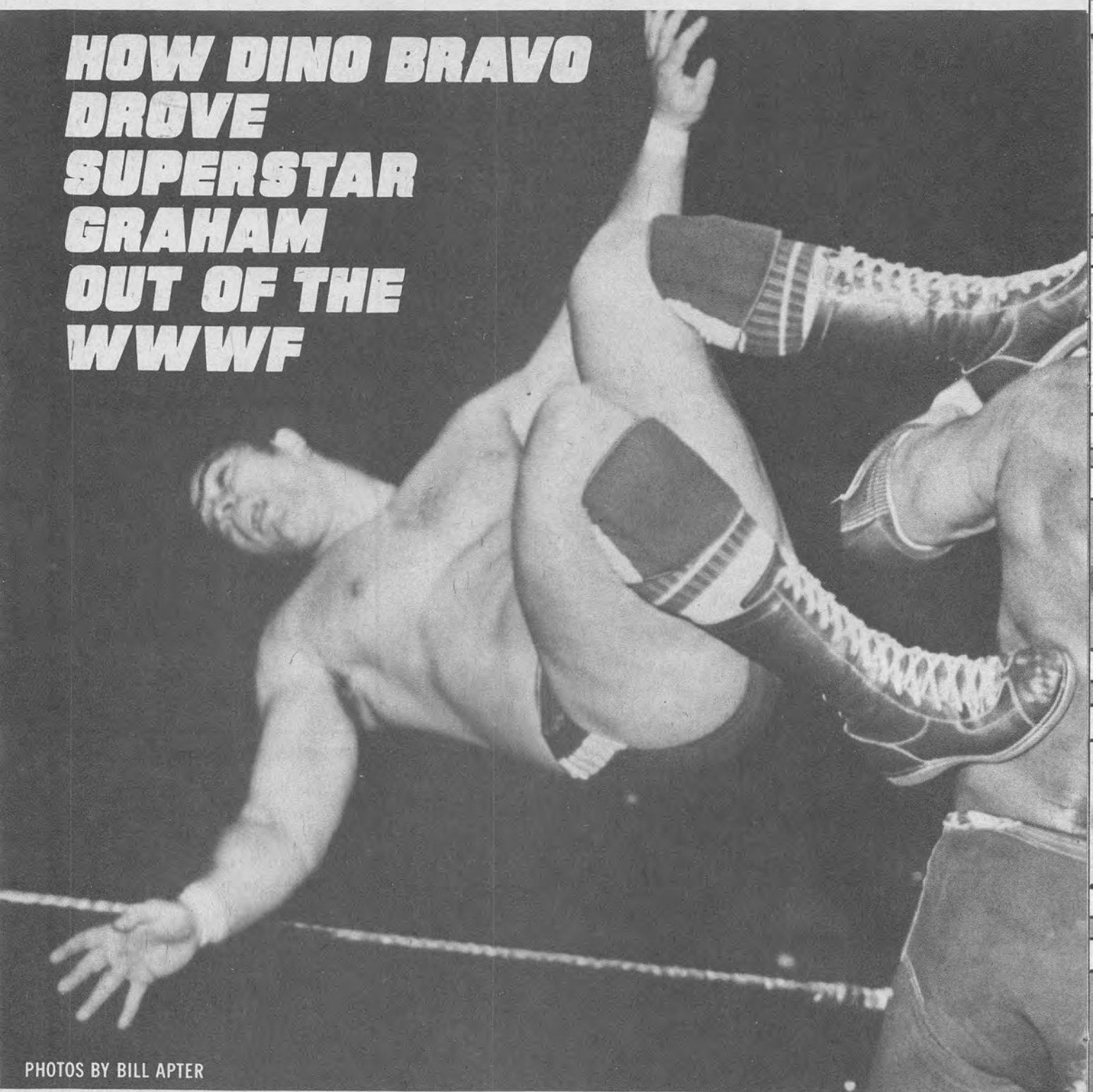
Q: Do you ever feel isolated from the rest of the wrestling community because of your rule-breaking style?

A: Sometimes. Most rulebreakers will stop at a certain point. Not me. Not Ric, either. He's the only one. Sometimes it does feel like it's me and Ric against the world.

Q: Thanks for sitting in, Greg.

A: Yeah, yeah. □

HOW DINO BRAVO DROVE SUPERSTAR GRAHAM OUT OF THE WWWF



PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN fans were confused. Anticipating a great match between two excellent, charismatic

wrestlers named Dino Bravo and Superstar Billy Graham, they were left dazed. They could not understand Billy

Graham's ring tactics.

The story takes on incredible proportions that carry well beyond the squared circle of

Some laughed at Dino Bravo. Others feared for his life. Today, everyone is awed by his courage and determination. Against overwhelming odds, he confronted the fearsome Superstar Billy Graham and walked away a hero!

LONGEST WINNING STREAKS

(Each victory must occur in under 15 minutes)

Rank	Name	Year Accomplished	Consecutive Victories
1.	Lou Thesz	1949	142
2.	Andre the Giant	1977	97
3.	Bruno Sammartino	1965	83
4.	Mil Mascaras	1972	79
5.	The Sheik	1970	77
6.	Killer Kowalski	1958	76
7.	Dusty Rhodes	1976	73
8.	Dory Funk Jr.	1969	72
9.	Andre the Giant	1973	70
10.	Dino Bravo	1978	69

inning. Everyone at the ball park knows about it, but no one will jinx the pitcher with verbal acknowledgement.

Bravo was slowly passing

Many fans were not aware of the thrilling streak. But Dino Bravo Bravo was.

"Was I aware of the record?" Dino asked. "Sure I was. I tried to forget about it when I wrestled, but I would secretly count the minutes of my matches in my head as they progressed. When the clock approached 15 minutes, I would always finish off my opponent as quickly as I could. I knew I was a long way from the record, but I wanted to at least catch up to guys like The Sheik and Killer Kowalski. When I signed to wrestle Superstar twice, I knew I could be really testing my ability to continue the streak."

What happened when the Superstar met Bravo disgraced wrestling as a sport. In terms of pure sportsmanship and fair play, wrestling may never see such a low moment again. Billy Graham may not admit it, but his only objective in wrestling Bravo was to break the streak any possible way he could. And he did.

The two combatants signed for two matches. The first was

(Continued on page 50)



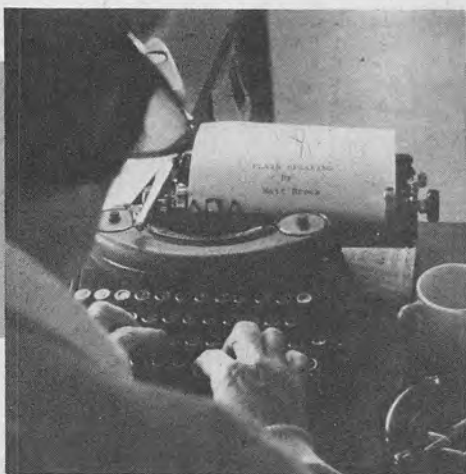
Above: In a test of strength, Dino brings Superstar Graham to his knees.

combat. In the end, all that was learned was what type of wrestler Billy Graham is. And what type of man he is as well.

Dino Bravo's winning streak was the kind of statistic that wrestlers recognized but did not talk about. It was similar to the superstition involved when a major league pitcher has a no-hitter going into the seventh

some of the greatest wrestlers in history on the all-time consecutive win list. However to continue his silent quest of Lou Thesz's incredible string of 142 consecutive wins in 1949, Dino had to win his matches in less than 15 minutes.

Bravo passed Buddy Rogers at 55 straight wins. Dino passed Gene Kiniski at 67 straight wins.

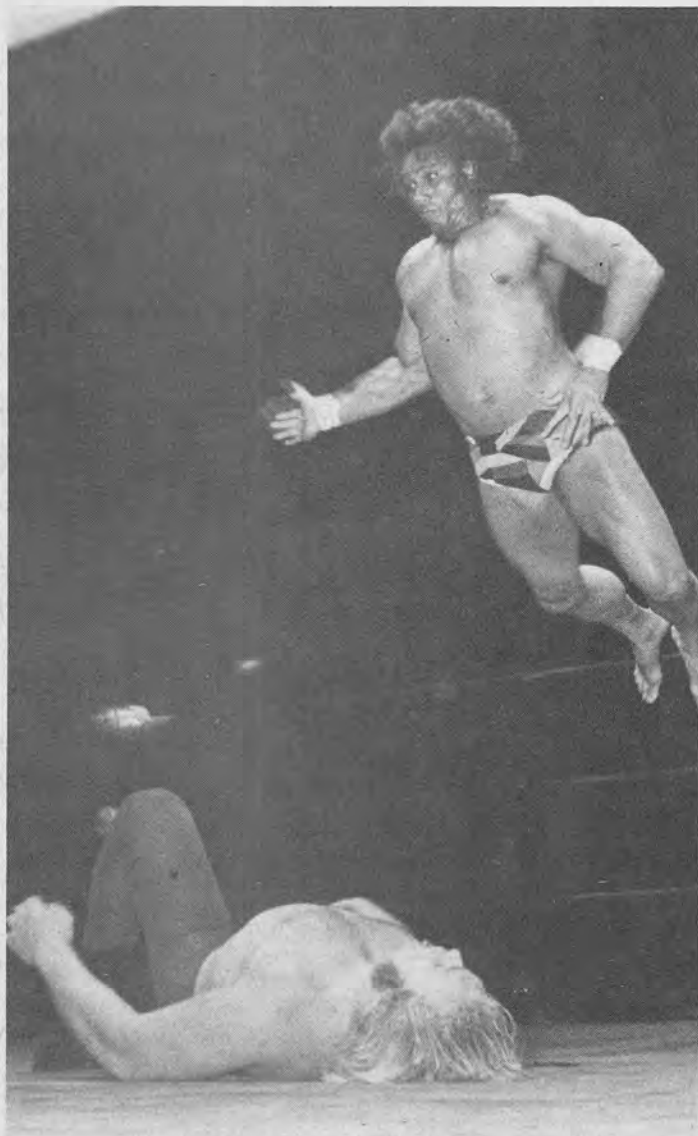


Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

PORTLAND: Up here to investigate reports of an impersonator. Heard through the grapevine that someone was posing as Associate Editor Randy Gordon. I've seen Gordon and can't figure out why anyone would want to look like him. Unfortunately, couldn't deny or confirm the existence of the impostor. Rumor had it that some vicious mischief was plotted by an impostor and Gordon would be blamed. Gordon's blanket approval of scientific wrestlers disgusts me. That's the reason I was less than diligent about unraveling the rumor. Had a brief chat with Arnold Skoaland. My old pal told me that he's never seen anyone more upset than Backlund the night Maivia went wild. Arnold doesn't think Backlund will ever forget it. Thinks that, surprisingly, this may make Backlund great. Now he'll never trust anyone.

ROANOKE: Sores have developed on my thigh. Look like miniature meatballs, sort of purplish color. Went to a doctor. He gave me a complete physical. Guy kept sighing. Made me nervous. Been taking yellowish-medicine. On the rocks, natch. I was well enough to see Jimmy Snuka tussle. Glad to see he took my advice to come east. Okay, so I said New York. Snuka's getting close. Big news down here concerned Greg Valentine. Says his fiercest ambition is a shot against—drum-roll please—Bob Backlund. They'd be spilling all over Manhattan trying to get into that one.

MIAMI: Wrestling, and this planet, lost a fine man recently. Eric the Red. Hate to get depressing, especially since Eric would've

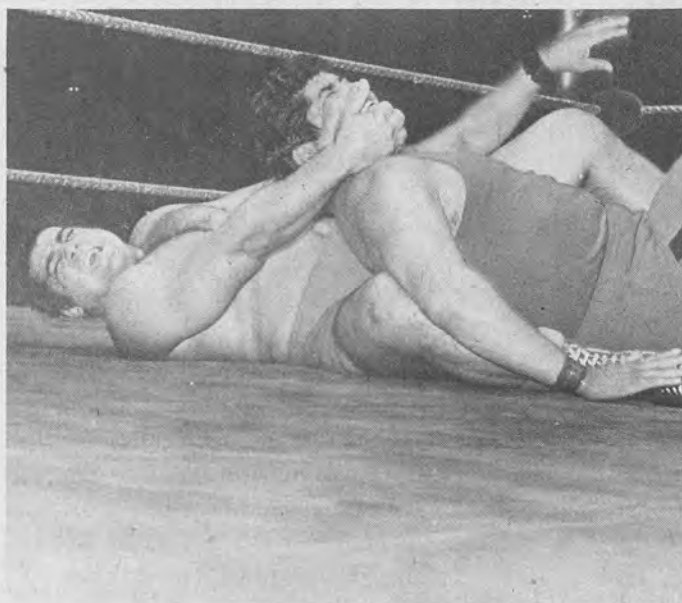


JIMMY SNUKA

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



MR. UGANDA & SONNY KING

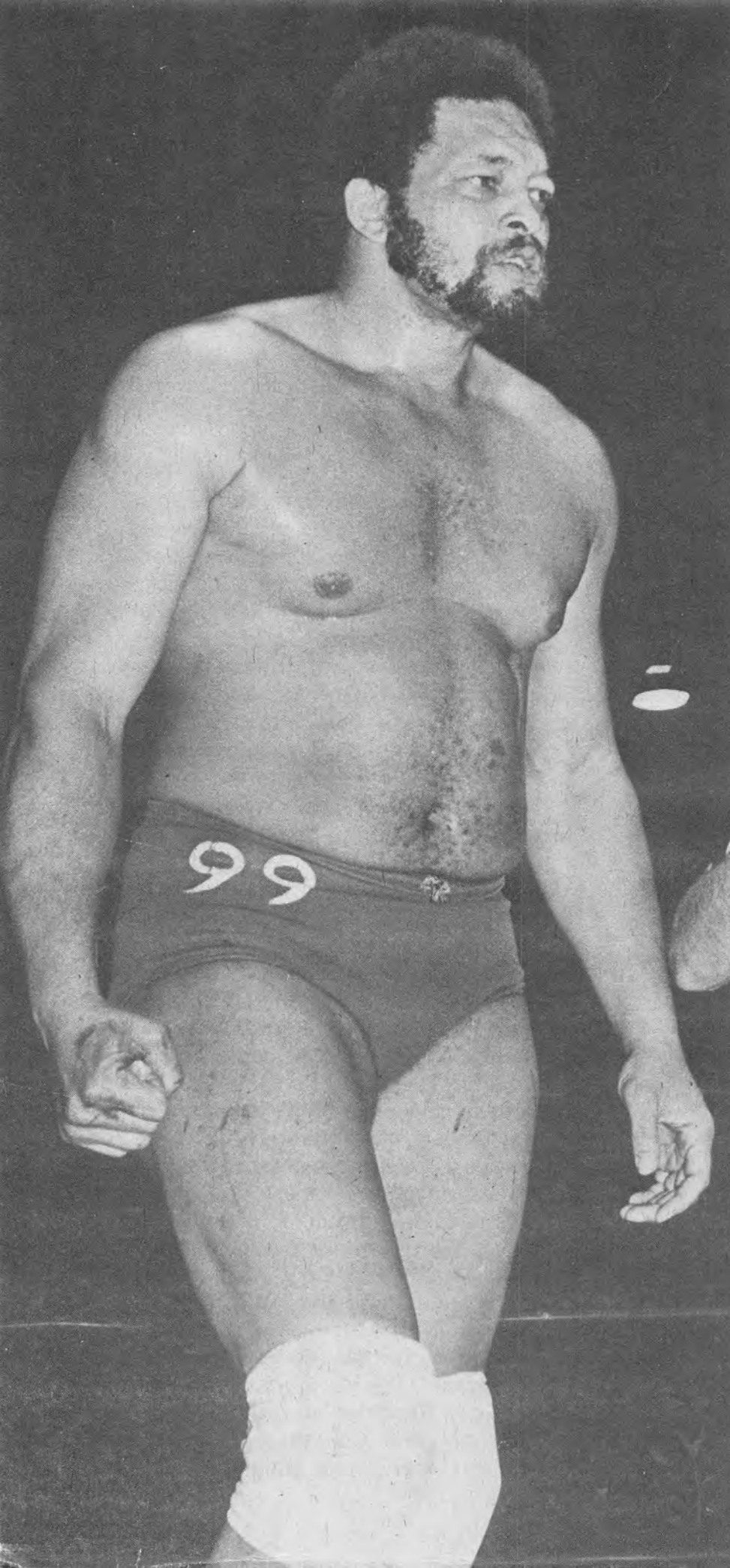


PEDRO MORALES & BLACK GORDMAN

been embarrassed. Sorry to see you go, old friend. On a different level, new tag team down here is driving wrestlers into desperate clusters. Sonny King kicked over an old rock and, presto, Pak Song and Mr. Uganda. Sounds like a Nairobi folk song. The new team may sound strange, but the Brisco brothers, Mike Graham and Steve Keirn, and every other Florida tag team is devising ways to run these guys out of town. I saw King's creatures wrestle and anyone who holds illusions of easily ridding the state of them should think again. These guys are good. Evil, animalistic, but *good*.

OMAHA: Sores are gone but I've been drinking two bottles of the stuff each day. Started worrying, then went cold turkey on the flight. Nightmarish experience. Stewardess' faces didn't help. Had a unique experience. Had a beer (or 20) with Crusher. Brock confession: I'm partial to guys like Crusher. To me, he exemplifies professional wrestling. Blunt, tough, takes no garbage from anyone. And his fans reflect that. You'll always get a straight answer from Crusher. Makes my job as a reporter and person that much easier without all the public relations boosts I get from some wrestlers.

LOS ANGELES: Only out here can I get acorn juice. Yup. Amazingly good. Ask the woman if I could buy a bottle. She got distressed, turned red and mumbled "it's unnatural." You go figure. Pedro Morales is out here. Resumed ancient feud with Black Gordman and Goliath. Listen up, Pedro. You're wasting your time with punks like them. □



AS A SUPERIOR being, I find it beneath my regal presence to comment on a low-life like Andre the Ugly. But I have to face Andre the Ugly in the ring. I don't like it. But they gave me a lot of money to wrestle inferiors.

But Andre the Ugly is not just an inferior. I hate Andre the Ugly. I want the whole world, all of those who can read, all three of you, to know why I hate Andre.

WHY I HATE ANDRE

By

ERNIE LADD

Now the cheapskates who run this rag magazine aren't paying me to write this. I will do this for free, another humanitarian act for which I have grown famous.

First off, I hate anyone who is ugly. I know that few men come close to me in looks, but Andre is grotesque. He looks like a piece of corned beef left out in the sun too long. He looks like an old rug in the attic. He looks like what's under the bottom of a rock.

In his own words, Ernie Ladd tells the real reason he's consumed with hatred for Andre the Giant. It's an ugly, brutal, shocking confession. Yet, no wrestling fan can afford to miss it

Ugly people make me sick. They should be destroyed. Ugly people only marry other ugly people and then have even uglier children. And I have to look at them. That's one reason I hate Andre the Ugly.

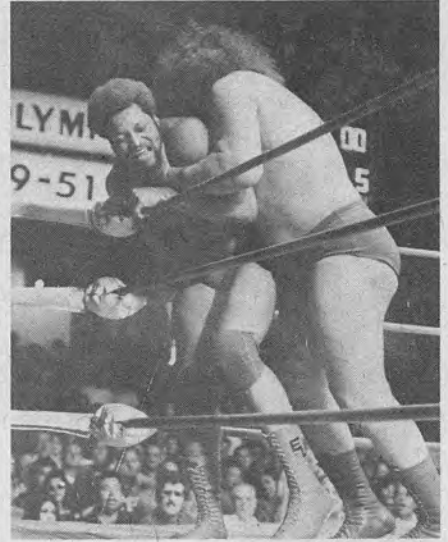
Next reason, as if that's not enough, is his body. Have you ever seen anything so misshapen? There's no reason why a tall person can't have a great body. I'm a perfect example, in every sense. He shames those of us who work on our bodies. Look at it! It's disgusting! And I have to look at it up close.

Do you think I like being in the sport with a gruesome baboon like Andre the Ugly? I have a magnificent physique. It is perfectly proportioned. I have tremendous strength. What does Andre have except this over-developed body?

That's another reason I hate Andre the Ugly.

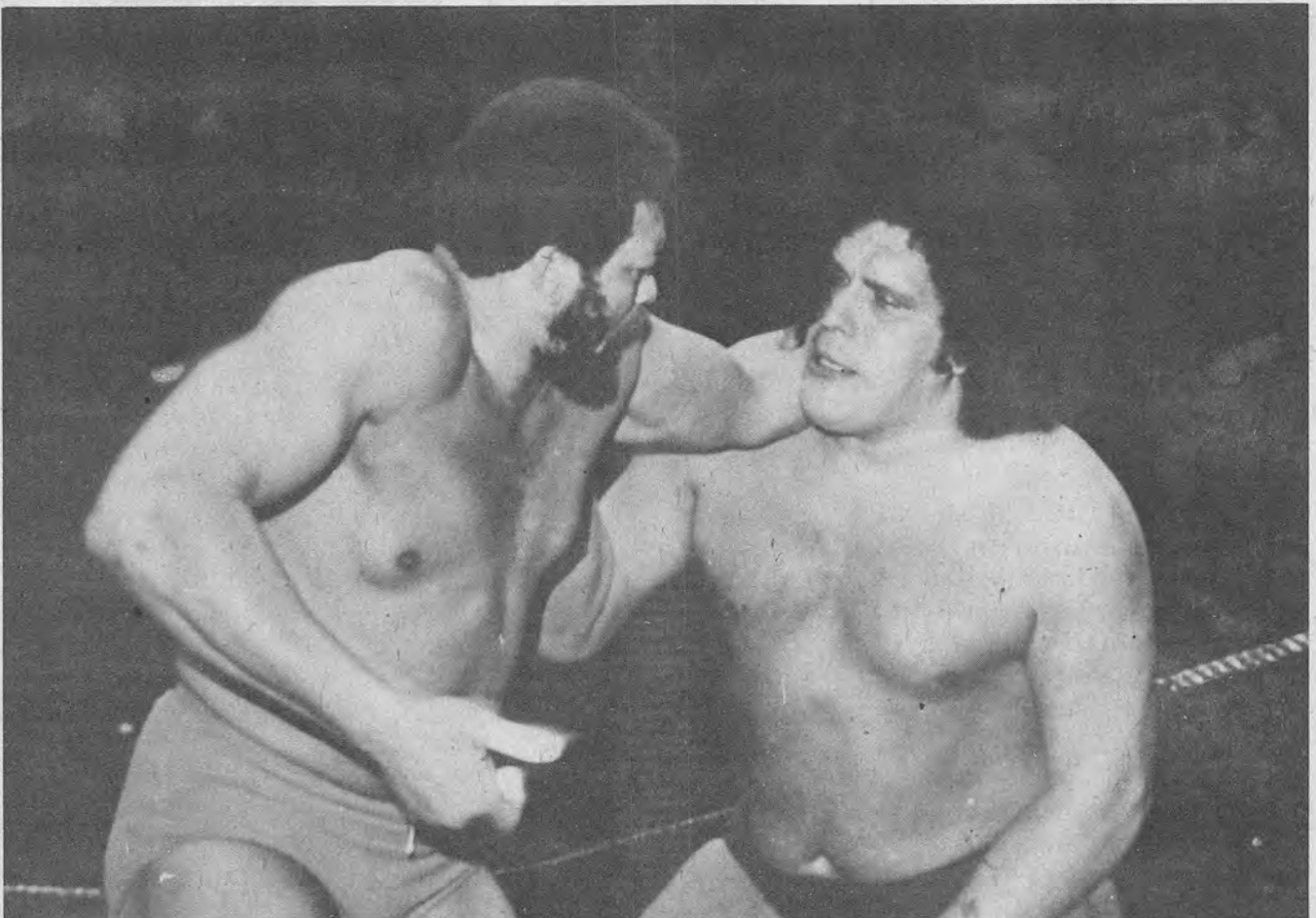
The next reason is that I don't think aliens who bring foreign diseases into my country should be allowed to wrestle here. They aren't sanitary and they don't

(Continued on page 54)



Andre is tryin' to choke the life outta me (above)! Everyone can see this—that is everyone except the referee he paid off to conveniently ignore it! I'm about to karate chop him (below) but he's about to kick me in the groin!

THE GIANT



Race-Mulligan

WAS MULLIGAN LAST CLEAR

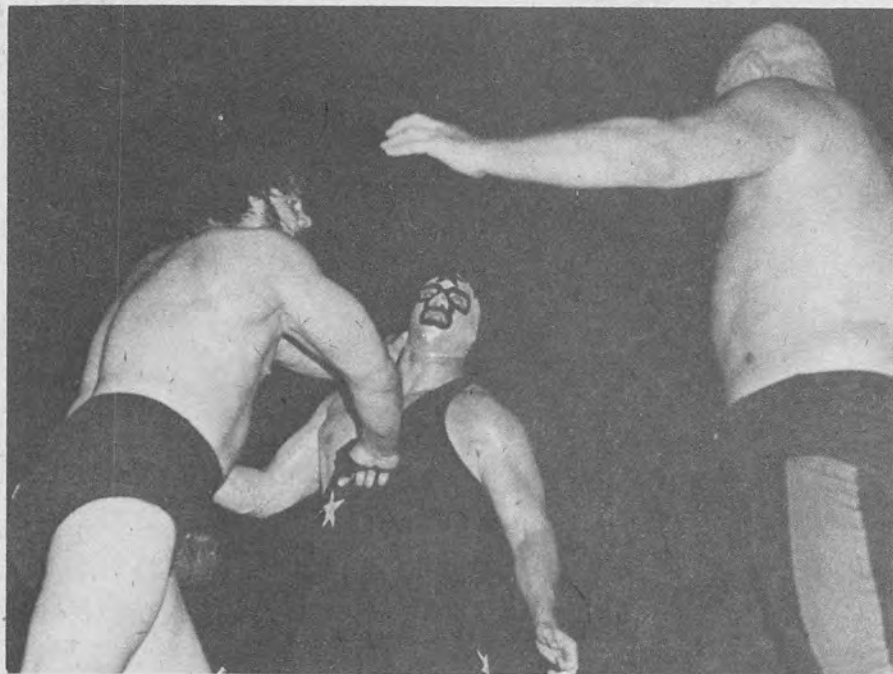


Oval above: Harley Race is nearly unconscious from Mulligan's beating. Right: Fan favorite Mulligan against Masked Superstar and equally hated Baron Von Raschke.

ONE FAN INSISTED it was two men. Another thought it was just one muscular blond. And the last eyewitness said both were blond, though one was a trifle shorter. All agreed it was difficult to see through the grey mist which encircled the street corner. All that was certain was the bundle of mimeographed sheets they left in front of the arena.

The message was brutally clear.

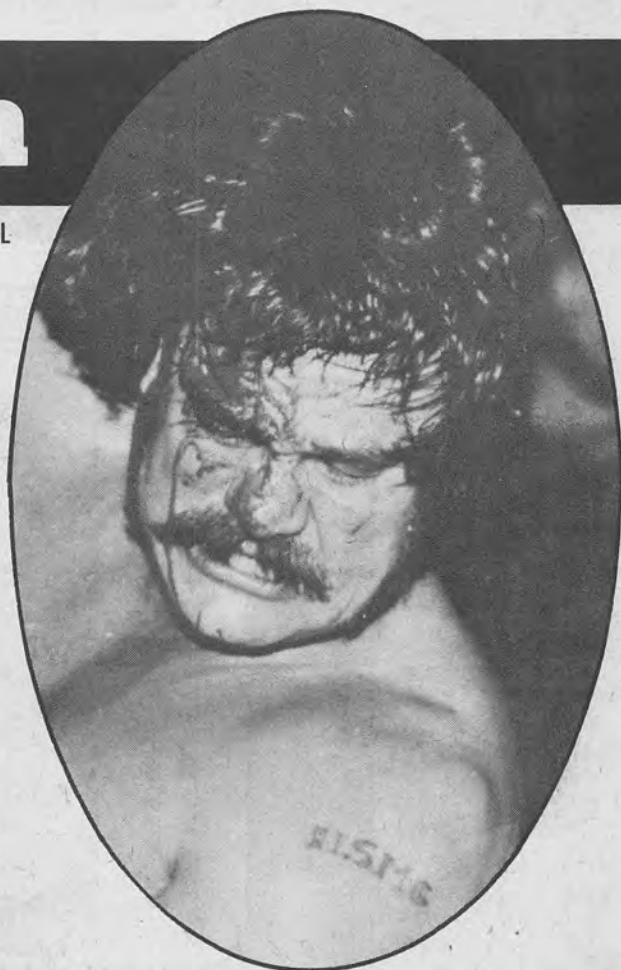
"Blackjack Mulligan is a



n Bloodbath

PHOTOS BY GREG McDANIEL

THIS GAN'S N MATCH?



deceitful animal. He is not a legitimate scientific wrestler. He is planning to revert to rulebreaker as soon as this match is over."

More than a rumor? Maybe. Approaching fact? Perhaps. But what is the real story.

Finally, Mulligan gets a title shot against NWA champion Harley Race. No longer must he impatiently wait behind Greg Valentine and Ric Flair. As a

symbol of decency, he is the logical opponent for Race.

Is it too logical? Was this a cunning plot by Blackjack Mulligan to convince the wrestling world he turned from rulebreaking when he simply wanted a title shot?

Was this Blackjack Mulligan's last clean match?

"People can say whatever they want," snarled Mulligan. "I'm not commenting on that

idiocy. I've shown myself a gentleman. I was provoked tonight by that sludge-face Race."

True, Race was the instigator. Mulligan did wrestle scientifically until Race's rulebreaking caused the match to develop into a bloody brawl.

True, Mulligan has acted with dignity the past few months. He has withstood the barbaric

(Continued on page 64)

Everyone is waiting for Blackjack Mulligan to shed his scientific methods and return to his rulebreaking ways. If anyone could make Mulligan revert back to his ferocious past, it was Harley Race. Then came the bloodbath

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wide Wrestling Federation



Champion:
Bob Backlund



1—PETER MAIVIA

American Wrestling Association

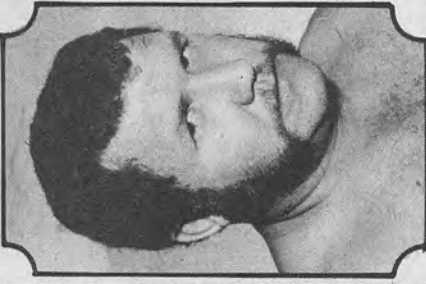


Champion: NICK
BOCKWINKLE



1—JIM BRUNZELL

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion:
HARLEY RACE



1—DUSTY RHODES

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—DUSTY RHODES



2—ANDRE
THE GIANT

Most Hated Wrestlers



1—PAUL JONES



2—RIC FLAIR

Tag Teams



1—TONY GAREA &
LARRY ZBYSZKO





2—GREG
VALENTINE



3—ERNIE LADD



4—DUSTY RHODES

- 5—IVAN KOLOFF
- 6—IVAN PUTSKI
- 7—CHIEF JAY
STRONGBOW
- 8—VICTOR RIVERA
- 9—CRUSHER
BLACKWELL
- 10—TONY GAREA



2—VERNE GAGNE



3—BILLY
ROBINSON



4—GREG GAGNE

- 5—RAY STEVENS
- 6—JERRY LAWLER
- 7—BOB ORTON JR.
- 8—LARRY HENNIG
- 9—SUPER
DESTROYER II
- 10—MIGHTY IGOR



2—ANDRE
THE GIANT



3—RIC FLAIR



4—KEN PATERA

- 5—RICK
STEAMBOAT
- 6—MASKED
SUPERSTAR
- 7—JACK BRISCO
- 8—BRUISER
BRODIE
- 9—MR. WRESTLING
II
- 10—TED DiBIASE



3—RICK
STEAMBOAT



4—BOB BACKLUND

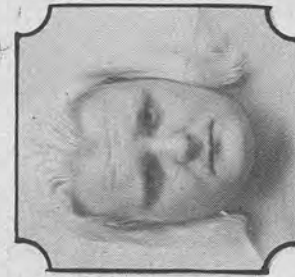


5—DINO BRAVO

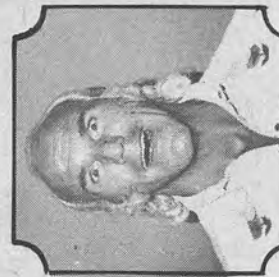
- 6—MR. WRESTLING
II
- 7—IVAN PUTSKI
- 8—JERRY BRISCO
- 9—JIM BRUNZELL
- 10—DAVID VON
ERICH



3—PETER MAIVIA



4—GREG VALENTINE



5—SUPERSTAR
GRAHAM

- 6—VICTOR RIVERA
- 7—IVAN KOLOFF
- 8—BRUISER
BRODIE
- 9—THE SHEIK
- 10—ABDULLAH THE
BUTCHER



2—PAT PATTERSON
& RAY STEVENS



3—BARON VON
RASCHKE & GREG
VALENTINE



4—THE VALIANT
BROTHERS

- 5—DAVID & KEVIN
VON ERICH
- 6—TERRY FUNK &
DORY FUNK JR.
- 7—GREG GAGNE &
JIM BRUNZELL
- 8—JACK & JERRY
BRISCO
- 9—THE LUMBER-
JACKS
- 10—PEDRO MORALES
& CHAVO GUERRERO

Dusty Rhodes' Startling Confession:

Rhodes uses a forearm smash to stop Mark Lewin in his tracks. Lewin turned into a crazed maniac during this match.

THE SHRILL RING knifed through the thick silence of the bedroom. His hand groped for the phone, struggled to grab the black instrument, then dropped it to the floor on the fourth ring.

"Yeah, who's this?" Mark Lewin mumbled. It was two a.m.

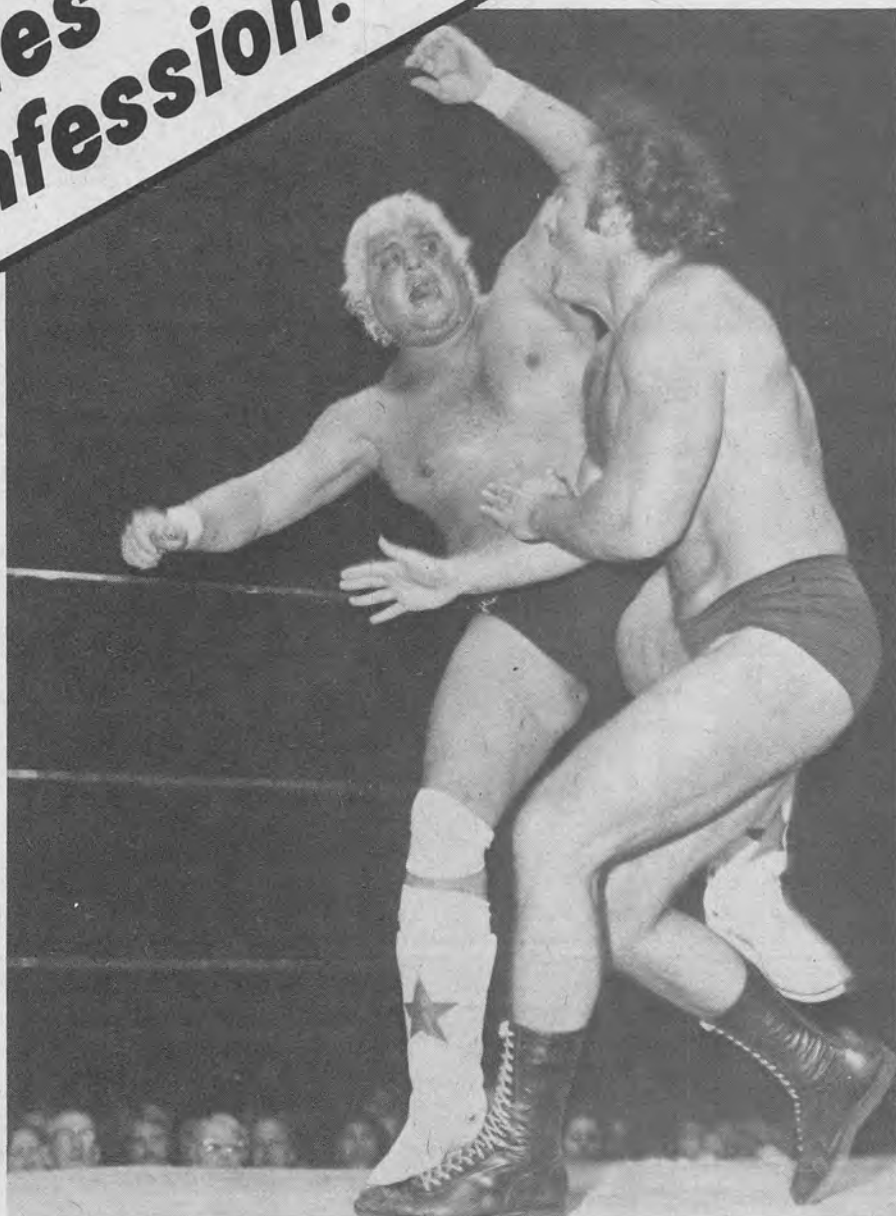
"Mark, old pal, this is Gary Hart." The voice twanged into Lewin's semi-conscious mind. "Listen, baby, I got a proposition for you."

Despite the hour, Lewin grew suspicious. This was *rulebreaker* manager Gary Hart.

"Yeah, what you want?" Lewin flicked the light on.

"We got a problem out here in Texas, baby. We got a lard, baby, a big fat tub of lard called Dusty Rhodes. Listen, Mark baby, what I want you to do is come out here and wrestle the 'American Nightmare.'

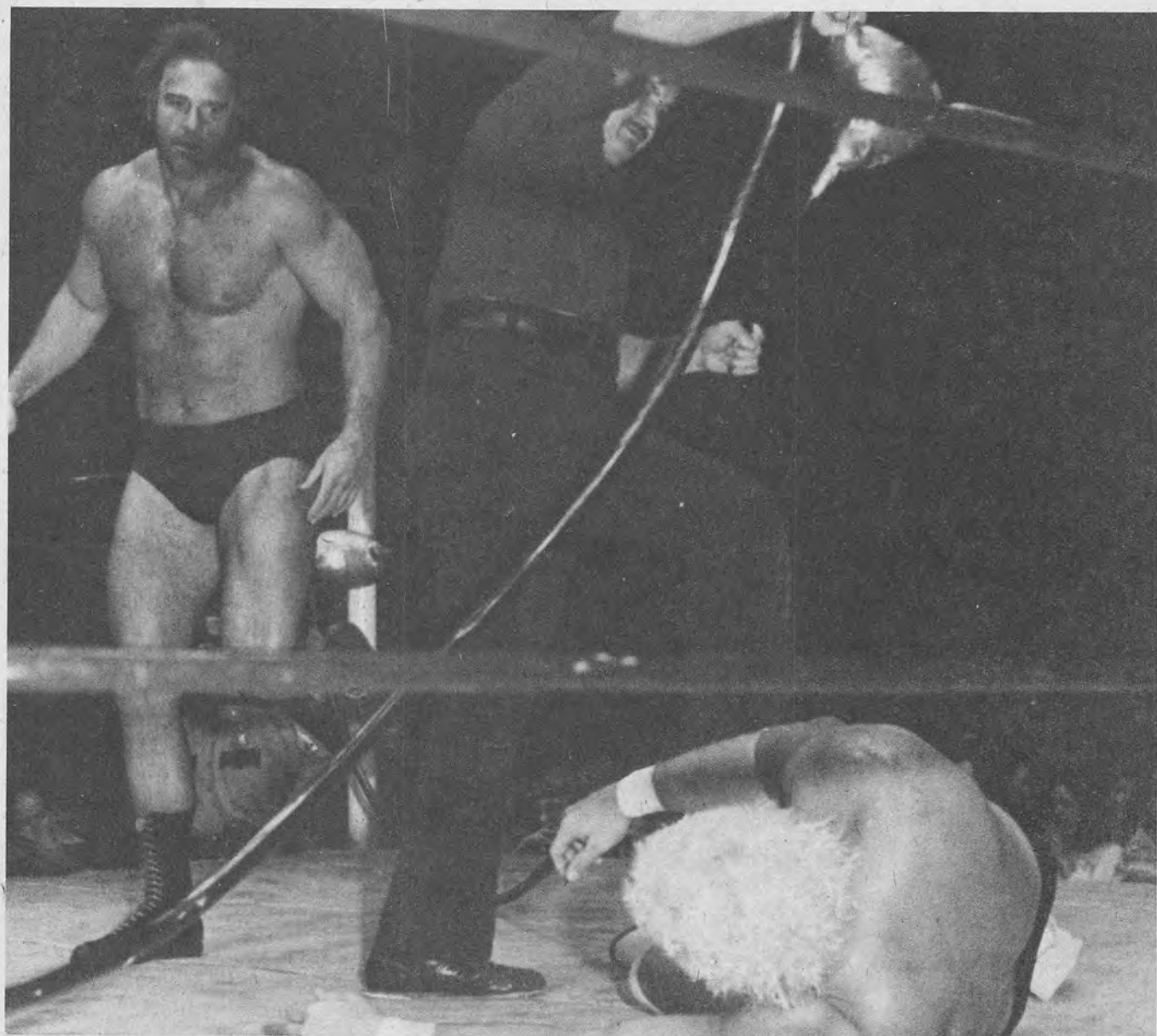
"Only you can do it, baby. You



"I TURN MY INTO MANIAC"

There's a special sensation a man feels when he sees Dusty Rhodes standing across the ring from him, poised for combat. Some men can handle that strange mixture of adrenalin and fury; most can't. Then Rhodes confronts the madmen he has created himself!

PHOTOS BY JIM CALDWELL



OPPONENTS ACS!"

come out and finish him off. You'll be paid real handsome."

"I don't know, Hart, that's not my bag."

"Money, baby. I'll offer you a barrellful of money. Besides, I think you'd like to get in there with Rhodes. Man, he's been bad-mouthing you all over the state. He's called you yellow, called you a

bum. I got a tape, baby, listen." Low grumbles, punctuated by Lewin's name, all spoken by Rhodes' distinctive drawl, pierced Lewin's raging mind.

"It'd be my pleasure, Hart. I'll be on the next plane."

That was the basis for this newest assault on Dusty Rhodes. Another barrage of inexplicable hatred, another forum for unseparable deceit and another attack which prompted Rhodes to wail:

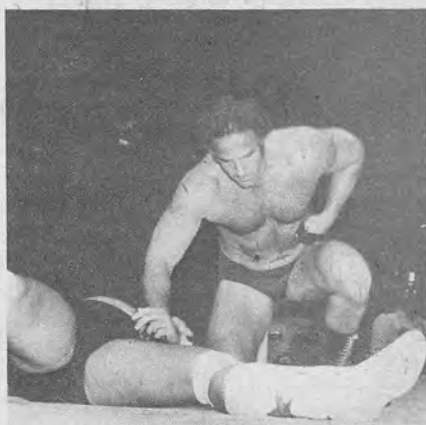
"I turn my opponents into maniacs!"

Lewin dismantled part of the ring (above) to beat up Rhodes. Referee Bronco Lubich tries to restore events to normal. Lewin stomps on Dusty's head (below).





Lewin is about to bash Dusty's head into the steel ringpost (above). He punches Dusty's leg (below) repeatedly until it turns black and blue. Lewin's manager Gary Hart is brought into the ring with Dusty's help (right).



Lewin was a scientific wrestler. Yet for Dusty Rhodes he gave in to the most animalistic instincts. He gouged and kicked and bit and slashed. He permitted new manager Gary Hart to enter the fracas and attack Dusty.

Why does Rhodes provoke such vicious behavior? Why does Dusty Rhodes turn his foes into madmen?

"I've wrestled the nicest of guys and as soon as they get into the ring with me, they go insane," Dusty said sadly. "I can't say I have an answer for this.

"Looka here. I've never done Mark Lewin any harm. I never bad-mouthed him, never jumped on his case. He comes into Texas and tries to break my skull open.

"There has to be a reason. I admit I have a bad temper, but it's a temper which gets me punished. Maybe they think that by getting under my skin they'll get me mad enough, then I'll blow my strategy and lose the match.

"But I don't think that's it. I think, ah, I don't know, I'm so discouraged by this. It gets me down real bad."

According to sources well-placed in the rulebreaker community, the arousal of Rhodes' fiery temper is part of a well-rehearsed plot to disrupt Rhodes' cover as a scientific wrestler.

This source insists that rulebreakers believe Dusty is trying to have the best of both worlds. As good guy, he enjoys the love and lavish praise of the fans and press, yet can still wrestle as a rulebreaker under the guise of his uncontrollable temper. What the rulebreakers want is a commitment; either rulebreaker or scientific wrestler.

Dusty discounts such rumors as the ravings of wild minds. He quickly dismisses such talk.

"I don't buy that. I love my fans. That's all there is. I don't care what they do. I won't change. Ever!" □

INSIDE WRESTLING

32

capsule profile

BRUISER BRODIE



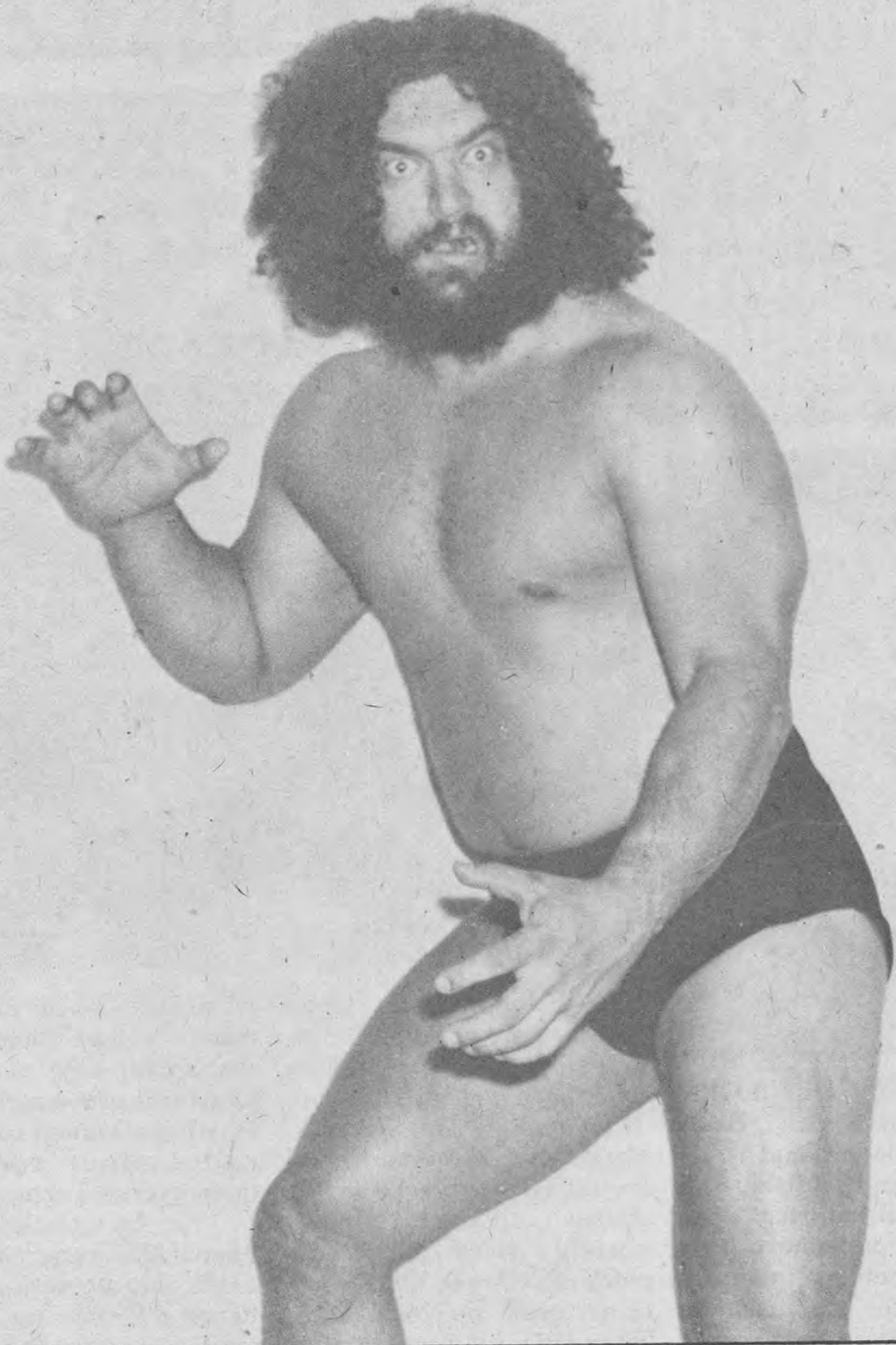
A GROTESQUE FORM of Earth life . . . Black beard, black hair, and blackish eyes blend brutishly with a bleak and maniacal mind ("I'm tough and smart. Ain't no finer combo in these United States") . . . Insists he is the WWWF champion ("I whipped the eye-talian. His marinara friends fixed it so he kept the belt. I'm champ and that's all there is") . . .



Has a long-standing feud with Fritz Von Erich ("Germans are good for cooking dumplings and sauerbraten. They make crummy wrestlers") . . . His berserk rampages have ravaged many arenas . . . Unable to follow society's rules ("Laws are made for fools. Real men don't need no fool rules. They live by power. Like me") . . . Fought a move to have his license revoked ("Know who was behind me? Guess. Scared fools like

Rhodes and Von Erich and calzone-mouth Sammartino, that's who. Only way they'll stop me is with a cannon") . . . Has been known to sadistically inflict torturous maneuvers ("Torture is fun") . . . May be wrestling's most animal-like member . . . Inexplicably mysterious about beard ("People say I hide stuff or it gives me special powers. I ain't sayin' either way") . . . Surely a poor example for the youth of America. □

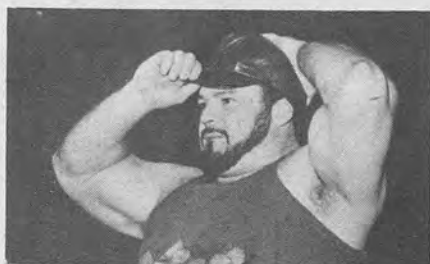
CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



BRUISER BRODIE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!

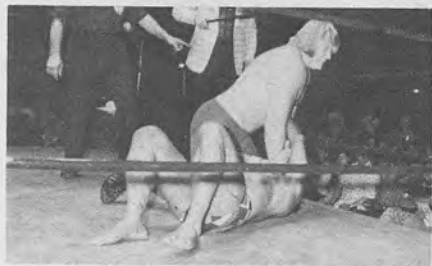
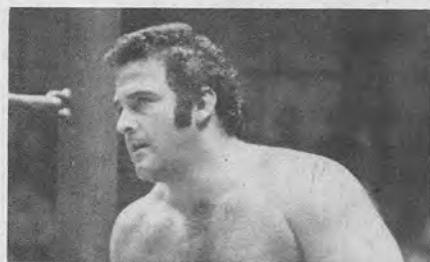


IVAN PUTSKI

After an absence of several months, the beloved Polish Prince is returning to the WWWF. Putski had been competing in the "World's Strongest Men" competition and had also been wrestling in Texas.

MARK LEWIN

The poisonous influence of Texas manager Gary Hart has lured Lewin into the Lone Star state, where he is expected to ruthlessly brutalize the legions of scientific wrestlers gathered to stop his violent march.



JOHN STUDD

A Ric Flair "protege," is now working as a bounty hunter. Target? Blackjack Mulligan, of course. Young and rugged, Studd has been relentlessly stalking Mulligan throughout the Mid-Atlantic region.

DICK MURDOCH

Murdoch is finally off the injured list. Fully recovered from the ailment sustained in the Mid-Atlantic area, Murdoch is presently negotiating with promoters in both Texas and Missouri, with his ultimate goal a triumphant return to the Mid-Atlantic region.



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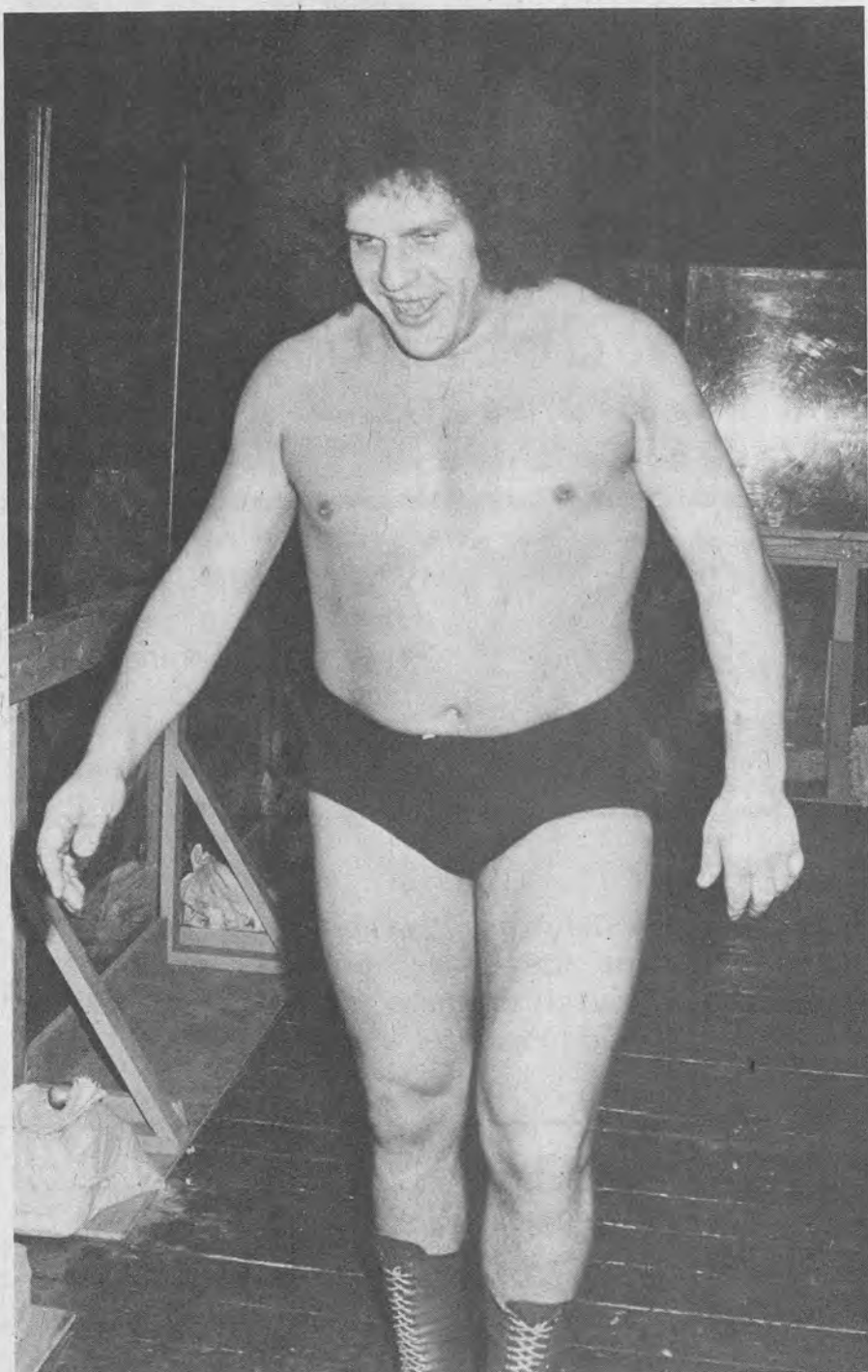


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ONE ON ONE

(Continued from Page 23)



Andre the Giant is a man who believes in only the finest in professional wrestling. His principles are high and he refuses to accept the philosophies of a man like Chief Peter Maivia.

A: down on a long scroll.
You make me nauseous, Maivia. You told Blassie all the team's secrets. You have probably told every intimate truth we have ever shared. You are a disgrace.

PM: Yeah, I told him how to beat you, Andre. But I only told Blassie. So only I can use it.

A: (Laughter) You think Blassie will not tell another of his wrestlers?

PM: No. I trust him.
 A: He won't tell Victor Rivera?
 PM: No.
 A: Too bad when you turned rulebreaker you were not given a new brain. You are very foolish to think Blassie will not turn on you.
 PM: He would never do that. He is my best friend in the



Peter Maivia is a man who used to have the same principles as Andre the Giant—until he met Fred Blassie.

whole world. I am the great man I am because of my good friend Fred Blassie and I won't listen to you bad-mouth him, you grotesque grapevine.

A: You had the potential to be a champion, Peter. Your whole nation looked up to you. Millions of fans idolized you.

PM: Idolized me? They booed me. They never gave me the love I deserved.

A: Love? (Sigh) The love of a wrestling fan is the most wonderful thing in the world. You never understood the fans' love. But I promise you this. Now you will know the meaning of hate. ☐

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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)



I mean? Maybe, deep down, I have a certain affection for rulebreakers because I was once one of them. Take the Rhodes-Bockwinkle match I refereed.

"Bockwinkle pulled some pretty cheap tricks. Brought back some fond memories," he said softly. "Now as a member of society, what Bockwinkle did angered me. I knew it upset the fans. You have to expect that. Fans don't have to be impartial. But refs do. And so do writers." His eyes narrowed solemnly.

"Lots of writers tend to sway with the wind, and they jump on the bandwagon of a good guy. What they don't understand is that the sport needs both. You may hate the rulebreakers, but this whole sport would go down the tubes without them." McShane lifted his wiry frame half-way out of the chair.

"When I wrestled I expected to be booed. But I was as important as the guy I beat to a bloody pulp. Unfortunately, most fans and writers don't understand. At best, the refs do."

Referee McShane keeps a close watch on batters Mongolian Stomper and Peter Maivia. Rulebreakers find it hard to cheat when McShane referees.

McShane walked in a tight circle, sighed and slumped back into the chair.

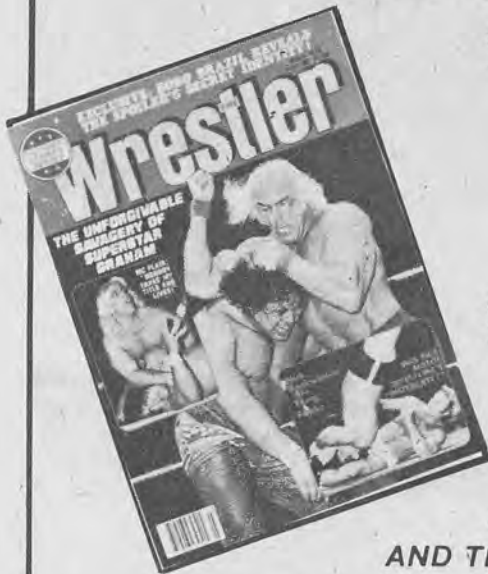
"This is such a complicated, yet simple sport. It's hard to pull back and see who's telling the truth. A guy like Heenan is immediately suspected, but someone like, say Skoaland, isn't. What's to stop a scientific wrestler from lying through his teeth? That's your job, to find out who's the liar. Mine, well, I just try to keep some order in the ring."

Heenan's comments had annoyed me. McShane's had disturbed me. Perhaps I was guilty of prejudice. Sure, I'd seen a lot of rulebreaker brutality. But could they be wrong every time?

Maybe I was letting the public down. I resolved to follow up on that story in North Carolina. Something about a new league run by rulebreakers. I'll report on it next month. □

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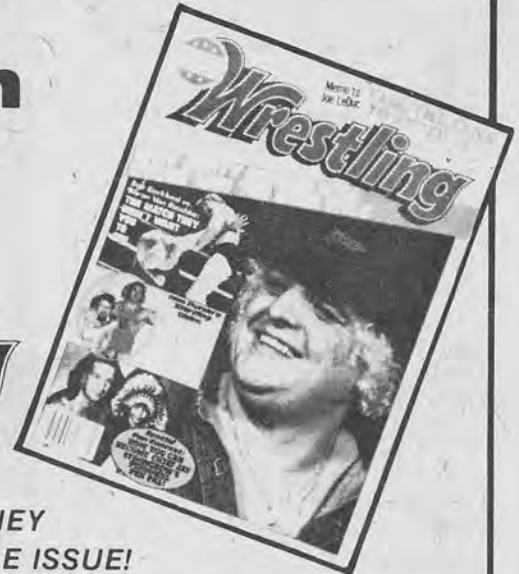
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DINO BRAVO

(Continued from Page 31)



held in New York's famed Madison Square Garden. The second match was never held. Dino Bravo ran Superstar Billy Graham out of town!

Graham entered the Garden ring cautiously. Immediately, fans sensed that the cocky, smirking, confident Graham they were used to watching had something on his mind. Bravo followed him into the ring, greeted by a thunderous ovation from the enthusiastic sellout crowd. While few of the fans were aware of the streak of consecutive, under-15 minute wins, Bravo kept it in mind.

"Against a guy like Graham, it's hard enough just to concentrate on winning without having to worry about the clock," Dino pointed out.

The match began and Bravo immediately gained a strong advantage. Five minutes went by. Bravo had Graham in trouble. Graham escaped using rulebreaking tactics so familiar to wrestling fans across the nation. Ten minutes went by. Graham was seemingly more interested in watching the clock on the Madison Square Garden scoreboard than he was

Above: Bravo goes berserk and begins to pound away at Graham. Below: The test of strength is reversed with Bravo getting a taste of Graham's power.



in watching Bravo's wrestling strategy.

As the 15 minute mark approached, Bravo knew he had to put Graham away. The streak was in jeopardy. Every additional second that Graham survived meant that the streak was closer to an end. But Graham was tired and weakened. He was going to lose. He knew it. But he also knew what the clock read.

Graham then pulled a surprise attack that shocked the entire crowd of more than 20,000 screaming fans. He reached back for strength that was being held in reserve and he hit Dino Bravo with a low blow. Bravo was more enraged than hurt. Never before in his glorious career had a wrestler intentionally hit him below the waist.

Dino lost his cool. He began attacking Graham in the corner. He punched him continuously with a closed fist. His eyes were burning. The streak was no longer a factor. His only desire was to destroy the man that had just blatantly fouled him.

The referee came into the corner to pull Bravo away from Graham. Bravo pushed him away. Again the referee came over to enforce law and order. Again Bravo pushed him away. The referee had no choice. He signalled to the timekeeper to ring the bell. The match was over. So was the streak. Bravo had been disqualified for pushing the referee. Graham had also been disqualified for hitting Bravo with a low blow.

After the match, Graham left the WWWF area. He did not honor his contract with Bravo. The second match would never happen. Graham had ended Bravo's streak. He did not want to face Dino again. He remembered Dino's burning eyes and the punishment he took. He ran away. Forever. □

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BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 10)

type my opponents want. I don't care if they are death matches, stretcher matches, chain matches, or tiddlywink tournaments. That's up to those who'll have to suffer in them. I can take on any of these clowns, anyway, anywhere. How I mangle them doesn't concern me.

To answer your next question, nitwit readers, I have never wrestled professionally in my life. I'm a towering 5-6, I weigh 145 pounds, and I don't even like to hit my dog. However, I feel someone has to destroy the myth of the terrible trio, those overblown idiots loved by the fans. Though I'm not a battler, it's time I directly helped the sport I love. I accept the challenge gladly.

Almost everyone has been elated with my decision. They see it as a breakthrough, a chance to humiliate once and for all the clowns of wrestling. My friends were the ones who insisted that no referees be used. They correctly pointed out that I can win a fair battle, but I couldn't conquer the odds of a cheating referee. If Ivan Koloff failed, how could I succeed? You can't argue with that kind of logic, so I agreed to prohibit referees.

Other friends demanded other conditions, such as battling the opponents on different night. But that isn't my point; I must humiliate these men, not just defeat them. After long arguments with close companions, I stuck to my original feeling about facing them all in one night.

Now it's up to the brave matchmaker who doesn't have enough guts to sign a letter. If



Why should I be afraid of such cowards as Dino Bravo (above) and his criminal friends? Fools such as those never scare the truly righteous people.

he or she can convince Bruno, Dino and Ricky to wrestle me, it's all set. I'm looking forward to the next letter.

To be honest, I don't expect this battle to ever come off. My unworthy opponents will never accept the matches. They're too scared to risk anything, much less their undeserved reputations. They'll make some lame excuses (the only kind their feeble minds can invent) and run in the other direction. So my correspondent will wind up keeping the \$10,000 and losing three heroes.

Glad to do it, chump. □

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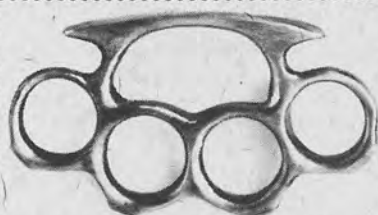
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ANDRE THE GIANT

(Continued from Page 35)



I have just been floored by my opponent (above) and look who is taking advantage of the opportunity—Andre the sneak! And they say I do lowdown things! Finally my thousands of fans are happy as I get down to puttin' some good whuppin' on him (below). I could have beaten the big freak but he got me mad so I wound up gettin' disqualified. I can take just so many low blows before I go crazy.



know the first thing about hygiene, taking care of their bodies or brushing their teeth. And they don't learn the language.

Now why should I want some frog like Andre coming in here and getting rich on Uncle Sam's money? Why doesn't he go back to

where he came from? I don't need his kind infecting my nation. I don't want his kind infesting the sport I rule.

Not that I need any more reasons, but there are a couple. Andre passes himself off as undefeated. Who has he wrestled

who is any good but me? All the guys he's faced are bums, piddling mediocrities who cannot compare with the greatest of my skills and the enormity of my potential.

That's why I hate Andre the Ugly. He acts as if he's good. Anyone with half a brain knows he wins by cheating. He carries a foreign object strapped to his boot. I know. I've had it used on me. Then he whines to the ref that I'm the one who's using an illegal substance.



Andre's right hand might be open now, but when he gets it closer to my chin, you can bet your last dollar the fist will be clenched. That's illegal, Andre baby!

That's the type of creature Andre the Ugly is. But there's one last reason. It's the biggie. It's the reason I want to behead Andre. When I think about it, my powerful hands form twin demons of destruction.

Andre pays off the referees. That disgraces the sport. I am an honest, fair wrestler who would never use a dirty trick. But Andre slips the refs money. Lots of money. I don't know where he gets it. Maybe from the little old ladies that are his only fans.

But he pays them off. They look the other way when he cheats. Andre the Ugly is nothing but a bum. And I'm real pleased to have the opportunity to finally expose him.

That's why I hate Andre the Ugly. Now, don't you hate him too? ☐

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BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page-12)

smelled like Abdullah the Butcher's wrestling trunks.

By the time my flight left Detroit (one hour late), a storm system had closed in on the Northeast, slowing down air traffic and making the flight *quite* rough. We didn't land until seven o'clock. By the time I got my luggage and caught a cab home, it was past eight. I would have stayed home, but Peter King had scheduled a staff meeting at nine. He had made it clear to all—"Be there!"

Exhausted and hungry, I made it to the office, but somehow wished I didn't. Dan Shocket and I wound up screaming at each other. Bill Apter and Gary Morgenstein agreed in part with each of us. Matt Brock took Dan's side. Cub-reporter Steven Farhood sat in shocked disbelief and Peter King kept saying, "I'd rather not take sides!" The whole argument stemmed from my snooping and spying, which has recently led me to uncover a plot by Peter Maivia to seriously hurt Dusty Rhodes. Dan said I had no right interfering and I should report the facts only as they occur. He said I shouldn't try to change their outcome with "devilish, underhanded schemes and pranks." Dan said, "Take my advice, sir. You should change your foolish attitude entirely, for your good and for the good of wrestling." Shocket, the staff of INSIDE WRESTLING and the entire wrestling world knows exactly what I think Dan can do with that advice!

No sooner had the meeting broken up, than into the office walked "The Heartpunch Kid," Stan Stasiak.

"Oh, no! More trouble!" I thought. I was tired. I was hungry. I was irate. If there was one man I didn't need to see, it



was Stasiak.

I won't even repeat what I said, but it wasn't pleasant, and it wasn't right. A lack of food and sleep does that. Stasiak said, "Come on, Randy, let's not yell at each other. I came up here strictly as a friendly gesture, just to say hello to you and the guys." I didn't understand. Stasiak, friendly? To me, especially?? He stayed for about two hours. We talked, had lunch and talked some more.

I was puzzled when he left. Why did he come up? Why was he so nice? Was all this friendliness on his part a hoax? Was he trying to pry information from me? I still don't know, but I'm leery of him. I'd trust the "Thief of Baghdad" with my wallet before I'd trust Stasiak.

Something is going on that I don't know about. The car that wouldn't start in Detroit, Austin Idol and Don Kent laughing as if they knew the car wouldn't start, the meeting with Shockett, Matt Brock's turning on me, and then Stasiak coming up and being nice. It's all a jigsaw puzzle right now. But I'll fit the pieces together. When I do, heads are going to roll!

I still can't believe the change of heart by Paul Jones. As far as I can tell, the change was brought about by jealousy. It's easy to be jealous of a man like Rick Steamboat. I intend to talk to Jones next week. I'll let you know what happens. □

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 18)



WWF champion Bob Backlund. Fred Morton of Brooklyn, New York, thanks our reporters for saving Bob from the hideous plot of Harley Race and Nick Bockwinkel, the two other major champs.

HORRIBLE!

God bless your magazine for its courage. I shudder to think what this world would be like without your brave reporters. I'm talking about "Race and Bockwinkel's Plot To Destroy Bob Backlund!" (February 1979). Only sick minds would take advantage of Skoaland's grief. Poor Arnold. He had treated Peter Maivia like a member of the family, and then Maivia turned on Arnie and Backlund and creeps like Race and Bockwinkel swoop down like vultures.

I'm sure Gary Morgenstein and Bill Apter took great risks to uncover this story. The wrestling fans of America are eternally in their debt.

FRED MORTON
Brooklyn, N.Y.

UNGRATEFUL WIMP

Rick Steamboat has a lot of nerve saying "This Time You've

Gone Too Damn Far" (February 1979). That untalented wretch should get down on his hands and knees and thank heaven that he's even shown in your magazines. Steamboat has no talent, little looks, and less personality. It is the job of the media to suggest career decisions to wrestlers. If Steamboat can't take a little constructive criticism, he should get out of the business. Wrestling would only improve.

IRENE TROLLI
Richmond, Va. □

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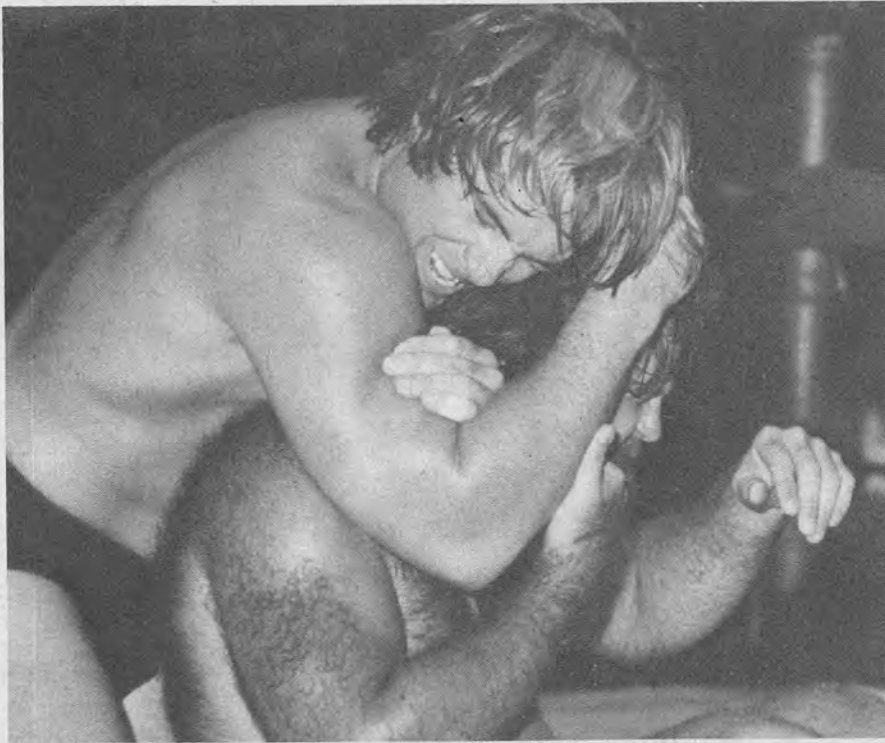
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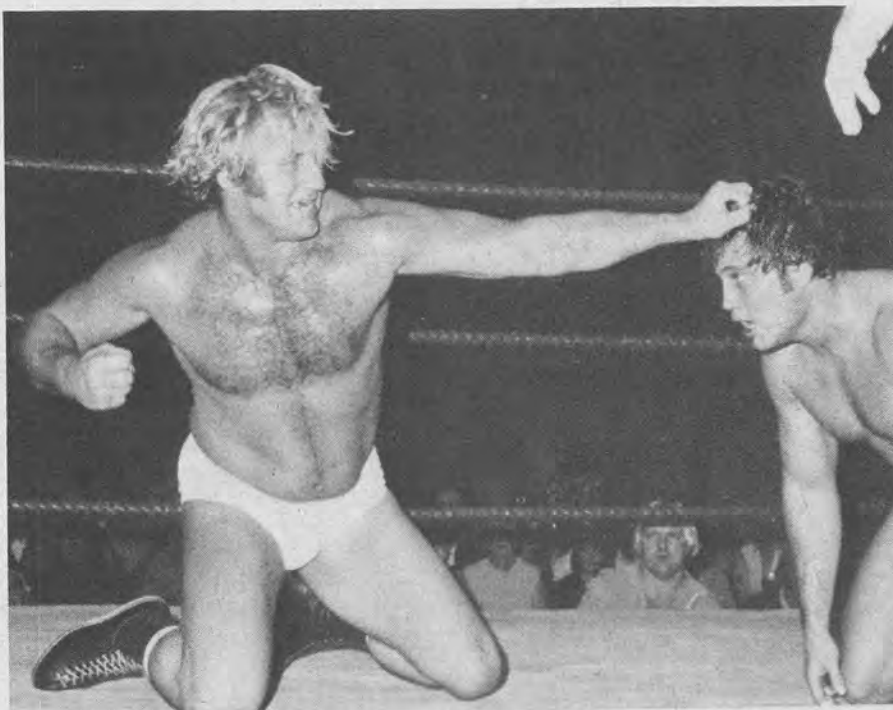
**SPORTS REVIEW
WRESTLING**

THE INSIDER

(Continued from Page 14)



The popular Steve Keirn applies his famed sleeper hold on Dutch Mantel (above). Keirn has suffered a broken leg and has missed lots of action, but he will soon return stronger than ever. AWA king Nick Bockwinkle gets set to pound away on the head of Jim Brunzell (below). Nick has an injured big toe! Poor baby!



face is all mine. Just tell that to your stupid readers!"

RUMOR: Tony Atlas and Ken Patera fought a savage piranha pool match in Charlotte, N.C.

The two wrestlers were suspended above a tank of live, hungry piranha fish. For those of you who haven't been watching re-runs of "Sea Hunt," piranhas

are fish that survive by feasting on the flesh of humans and large animals. Atlas and Patera, each confident of victory, agreed to the match. Both fell into the pool several times during the match, but somehow escaped with only minor cuts.

FACT: Patera and Atlas did engage in a match held over a pool full of water. However the fish in the pool were not piranha, but harmless goldfish. "Piranha?" shrieked Patera. "Do you think I'm crazy? I can't even swim."

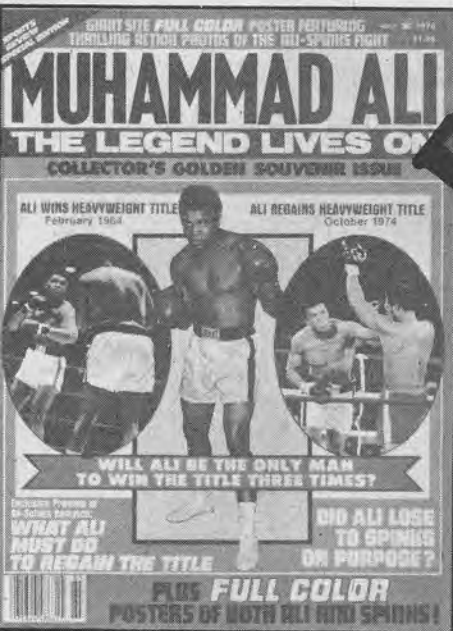
INJURY REPORT

JERRY BRISCO has a rare scalp ailment called disemporellicus. It is a result of a recent match Brisco had with rulebreaker Pak Song in Florida. Song continually yanked on Jerry's hair throughout the match. Losing several strands of his precious brown locks was bad enough for Brisco. But then he found out that he had contracted the horrible disease. To cure it he must soak his head daily in oil, vinegar and egg yolk. Good luck, Jerry. Feel sorry for your barber.

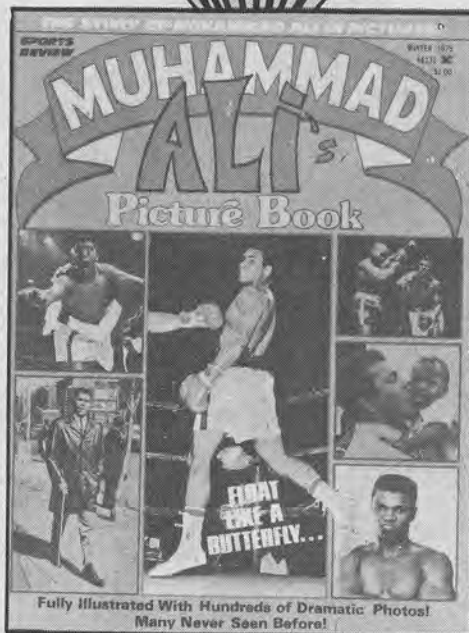
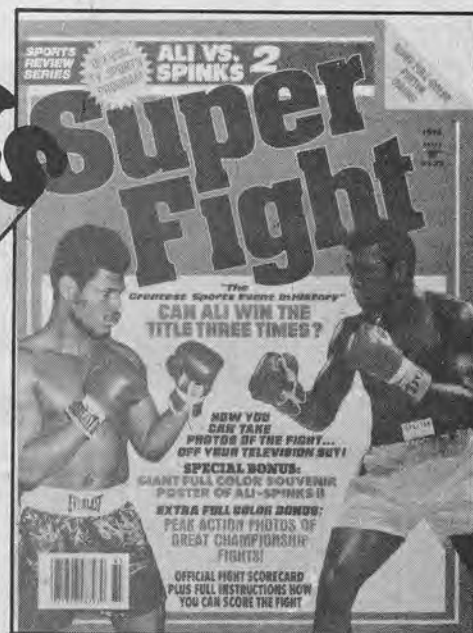
STEVE KEIRN is still inactive due to a broken right leg. It will be at least two more months before he can return to action. Doctors report Keirn will be as strong as he ever was. They are more worried about the psychological problems the injury may have caused.

AWA champion **NICK BOCKWINKLE** recently was forced to wrestle with a painfully broken left big toe. The secret injury was somehow discovered during a match against Jimmy Brunzell. Jimmy kept stomping on the sore toe, and he had Bockwinkle hopping around the ring like a berserk Mexican jumping bean.

Steven Farhood reporting. Remember, it's not goodbye, it's see you next month. □



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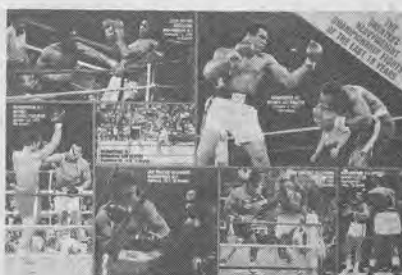
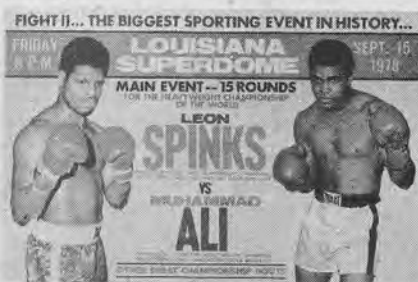
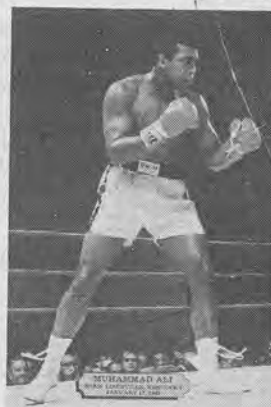
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Race-Mulligan

(Continued from Page 37)



Mulligan pressures the bloody NWA champion as he applies a clawhold. This was a terrible evening for Harley.

onslaughts of Flair, Valentine and their low-life "bounty hunters."

All true. But some cracks in the cover are showing and casting black splinters of light on Mulligan's integrity.

Ever since Mulligan turned from rulebreaking, rumors have swirled concerning the secret he knows which could destroy the careers of Flair and Valentine. Yet Mulligan has never come forward with this secret.

"I'll talk when I'm good and ready," he snapped.

Mulligan once belonged to the mob; Flair, Valentine, and Blackjack. It was difficult to separate them. All three competed for the hatred of the fans.

Then Mulligan broke away. His reasons seem sincere. Other wrestlers, like Andre the Giant, support his sincerity.

And then he received the title

shot against Race. More coincidence? Or the culmination of a devious campaign? Let Race drop his defenses . . . and the treachery will begin.

What nourishes these nasty rumors is Mulligan's reluctance to discuss them.

"My record speaks for itself. Race riled me and he got what he deserved. Only shame is we were both disqualified so I couldn't get the belt. Next time," he said as he smiled coldly.

One last item to consider: the source of this rumor. The two men who dumped the bundle of papers. Muscular. Long blond locks. Ric Flair and Greg Valentine?

But why would they do this? What good would Mulligan as a rulebreaker do for them?



Mulligan is about to slam Race's head into a chair as the match gets completely chaotic.

Unless Flair and Valentine feel they need another ally. Unless Flair and Valentine are plotting some dreadful maneuver that requires all the savage bodies they can muster. That would explain the bounty hunters and the grooming of youngsters like John Studd for sadistic services.

All along, many wrestling observers felt there was much more to Mulligan's change than was readily apparent.

The answer is very, very close. ☐



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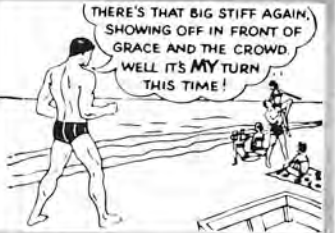
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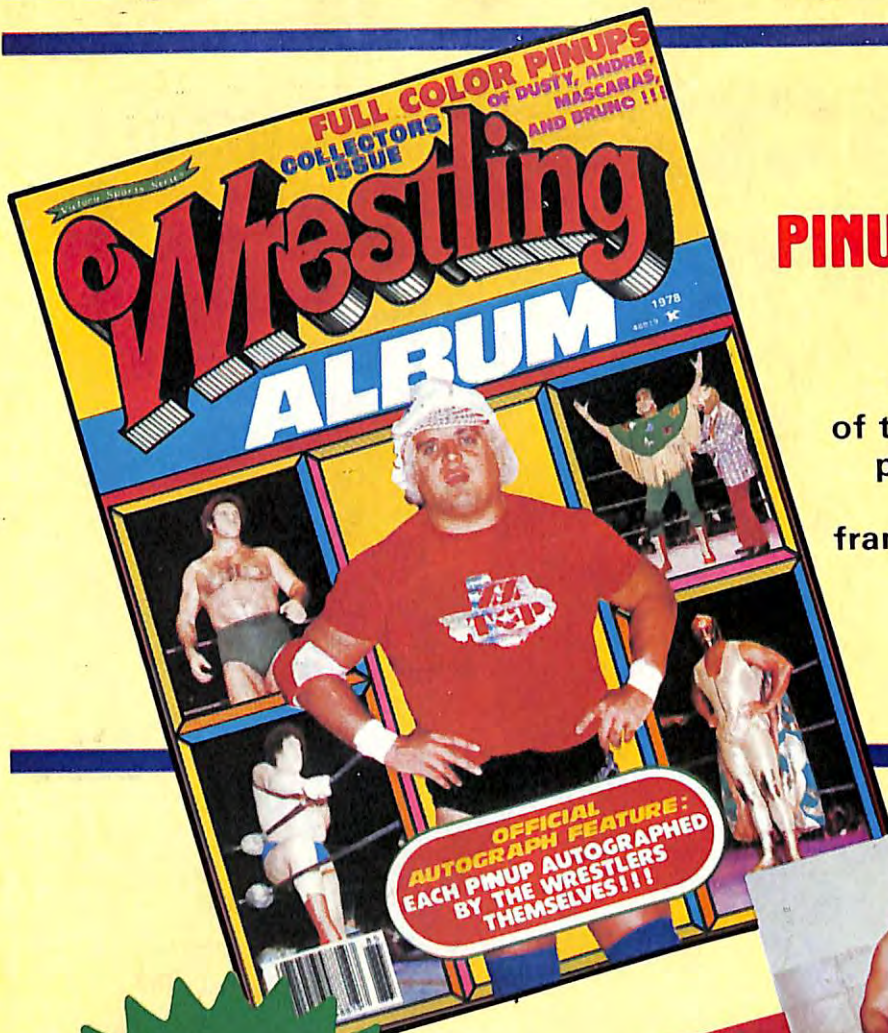
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